

page 14  
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Thursday April 4 1996

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# The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR  
46,518

The man who threw it all away

## Called to account

G2 with European weather

The new masterpiece from Scotland

## Gangland in Glasgow

Screen G2 pages 8/9

OnLine

## The world's fastest rollercoaster

G2 pages 10/11

# Judges scorn olive branch

Alan Travis  
Home Affairs Editor

**T**HE Home Secretary's plans for tougher sentencing will require judges to be unjust, one of Britain's most senior judicial figures warns today. Following the unveiling of detailed proposals to jail an extra 10,800 burglars, drug dealers, rapists and violent offenders each year.

Senior judges will continue to oppose the proposals for US-style minimum sentences despite an olive branch offering to allow exceptions to the policy in special cases, says Lord Donaldson, former Master of Rolls.

Writing exclusively in the Guardian, Lord Donaldson says the objectives of sentencing policy should "have nothing to do with the election of particular politicians or particular parties".

Michael Howard's plans are outlined in a white paper published yesterday, which estimates that 12 private prisons will have to be built in 15 years to house the extra inmates in a move which marks an escalation of the political auction over law and order. The paper acknowledges that the building programme may cost up to £435 million a year.

The proposals will be introduced in a criminal justice bill this autumn and will reverse more than 100 years of judicial discretion.

The white paper says the proposals for automatic life sentences for second time rapists and violent offenders could be implemented by October 1997 and the rest of the package by the end of 1999. Lord Donaldson, defending the independence of the judges, says: "Deciding on what is the appropriate is a skill only to be acquired by experience and training based upon detailed research. There are no simple answers. Some mistakes are inevitable."

He says the sentencing plans have been put together without any extensive research and are contrary to most professional advice. The proposal for "honesty in sentencing" replaces the "worst of all worlds", he says. He describes the plans for a minimum three-year sentence for repeat burglars and

- Mandatory minimum three year sentence for repeat burglars.
- Mandatory minimum seven year sentence for repeat drug dealers.
- Automatic life sentence for second time rapists and serious violent offenders.
- Abolition of automatic early release and 50 per cent remission in future maximum 80 per cent remission but has to be earned.
- Twelve new private prisons to be built to house expected 10,800 a year jail population increase.

a minimum seven-year sentence for repeat drug dealers as "beyond doubt revolutionary".

"The fundamental objection to this proposal is that it would require the judge to pass what he believed to be an unjust sentence in any case in which, taking account of the circumstances of the crime and of the offender, he would otherwise have passed a lighter sentence," writes Lord Donaldson.

He says that it is no good the Government responding to protests by allowing lower sentences in special cases if it does not allow judges to exercise their traditional discretion.

Mr Howard made plain in the Commons yesterday he believed that only "very occasionally" may there be "cases when it would not be reasonable for the court to impose the minimum sentence".

He justified his openly populist package to MPs, saying: "These are deliberately tough sentences designed to deal with serious persistent and wholly unacceptable offending by individual criminals. I accept that they are likely to lead to an increase in the prison population but I believe we simply cannot afford not to take this action."

But Jack Straw, the shadow home secretary, questioned his methods, arguing it was better for the Court of Appeal to issue comprehensive sentencing guidelines.

For the Liberal Democrats, Alex Carlisle asked Mr Howard why it had taken "17 years for your burglar alarm to go off".

The Penal Affairs Consortium, representing 30 organisations working in the prison system including governors and chief probation officers, said the package was "the worst assault on the principles of justice this century" which would "reduce the judiciary to the 'automatic dispensers of injustice'".

But Fred Broughton, the Police Federation's chairman, gave his full support adding: "These measures will help restore the public's faith in the criminal justice system, which is now at a very low ebb. They amount to a very clear warning to those criminals who have lost all fear of punishment."

## Helicopters search for survivors in the hills around the Croatian port



Ron Brown, the United States commerce secretary, speaking to US troops in Tuzla before the crash yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: GLOBENET

## Clinton aide feared dead in plane crash

Visit to US troops ends in disaster in a heavy storm near Dubrovnik

Julian Borger in Zagreb and Ian Katz in New York

**R**ON BROWN, the United States commerce secretary, a key pillar of President Clinton's administration, was missing presumed dead last night after his plane crashed in a heavy storm over the Balkans.

An unnamed US general was with Mr Brown on the flight from a US military base in Tuzla, northern Bosnia, to the coastal city of Dubrovnik.

Mr Brown, aged 48, had been visiting American troops with a delegation of government officials and US businessmen.

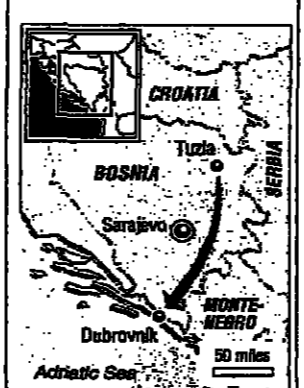
He grew up in Harlem, where his father ran a hotel, and became one of the

more powerful figures in Washington. He was one of Washington's leading lobbyists, often drawing attention because of controversial clients, including former Haitian dictator Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier.

Mr Brown former chairman of the Democratic National Committee, was the first black to lead either major political party.

Reverend Jesse Jackson, one of his closest friends, said last night "Ron has been a faithful public servant and if the worst scenario materialises, he was in his full stride, travelling across the world connecting people."

Mr Brown's T43, a military version of the Boeing 737, vanished from Croatian radar screens a few minutes before



3pm in heavy rain and high winds. There were some reports of wreckage being spotted in the Adriatic sea, but Dr Mladen Miovic, at Dubrovnik's main hospital, said: "The latest reports we are getting is that the plane crashed in the hills north of the airport."

## Armed police free Greek shipping agent held by kidnapers

Duncan Campbell and Helena Smith in Athens

**A**KIDNAP victim who was held masked and tranquilised in a cupboard for nine days was recovering yesterday after being freed by a complex armed police operation.

News of the kidnapping and the ransom demand, reported to be for around £20 million, was kept secret through a police information blackout.

George Fraghistas, a London-based shipping agent from a wealthy Greek shipping family, was grabbed at gunpoint by four men shortly after dark on March 24.

He was walking down a street near his home in Malda Vale, west London, when he was bundled into the boot of a car. One of the kidnapers got into the boot with him and handcuffed and gagged him.

He was driven to a three-storey house in Hogan Mews



George Fraghistas... held for nine days in a cupboard in Paddington, west London, where his spectacles were removed. He was forced to put earplugs in his ears and was effectively suffering from sensory deprivation, said Commander Roy Ramm, head of

the Organised Crime Group at Scotland Yard. The kidnapers also made Mr Fraghistas take tranquilising drugs although he was not physically harmed. He was kept in a walk-in cupboard for nine days around 50 calls were made in an attempt to extract a ransom from his family in Greece. No money was paid.

The first demand was made 36 hours after the kidnap and the police were informed. Officers from the Metropolitan Police's Organised Crime Group and the Directorate of Intelligence mounted a surveillance operation with more than 50 officers involved, including trained marksmen.

Late on Tuesday night, two men were arrested in a car in Golders Green, north London, as they were making a telephone call to the victim's family. Two other men were arrested at the Paddington address.

Mr Fraghistas, a single man

President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia said the plane had crashed "10 miles southeast of Dubrovnik on the Hill of St John".

Local officials said Croatian rescue teams had found the bodies of three men and a woman near the wreckage.

Dr Miovic said the hospital had been put on alert to care for survivors, but none had arrived. US, Croatian and French planes and helicopters were searching the coastline and the sea near the airport at Chitip, 10 miles southeast of Dubrovnik.

Journalists waiting for the delegation at the airport were escorted back to town. "It was very windy and there was a lot of rain," said Adriana Tomasic, from Dubrovnik radio.

"We were told the plane had not arrived but we have been given no more information."

It was raining heavily yesterday afternoon. All Croatian Airlines flights to Dubrovnik were re-routed to the Adriatic port of Split, 120 miles to the north.

Mr Brown had been due to meet local officials to discuss the potential for US investment in Dubrovnik's tourist industry, struggling to recover from the Croatian war of 1991, when the city's medieval port was damaged by Serb shelling.

"Super-salesman" from Harlem, page 6

Mr Robinson is fighting for a year's salary, worth £300,000, in compensation together with the guarantee turn to page 2, column 7

In a separate statement the chairman of the Woolwich, Sir Brian Jenkins, said: "The allegations centre on the irregular use of the society's facilities but there are a number of matters under investigation."

Mr Robinson is fighting for a year's salary, worth £300,000, in compensation together with the guarantee turn to page 2, column 7

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## Inside

**Britain**  
Visitors to the Houses of Parliament may be charged 25p for a guided tour after MPs said the present free system was being abused

**World News**  
The California police beating of two Mexican illegal immigrants has confused a rightwing drive to make aliens a political issue

**Finance**  
The London and Northern Rock building societies were vulnerable to hostile bids, City analysts warned

**Sport**  
As Lord's digested the news of Ian Botham's bid to become a Test selector, Graham Gooch joined the list of candidates

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GUINNESS EXTRA STOUT



Sketch

Big beef by gaucho from the Groucho



WE HAD to wait a fortnight, but yesterday Douglas Hogg, the world's rudest legislator, finally lost it. Off his bike. Out of his pram. Swinging from imaginary chandeliers. It would be tempting to make cheap jokes about all those filets, sirloins, steak and kidney pies, hamburgers, topside roasts and corned beef hash the poor fellow has had to cram down his face every day since the crisis began. He must be one of the few Tory MPs from whom the phrase "a nice bit of skirt, sir?" evinces groans of despair. No, it's all those meetings with European ministers, their wearisome sense of moral rectitude, their plump self-satisfaction, their grimacing on until six o'clock yesterday morning. No wonder that his press conference afterwards lasted 23 seconds. (A colleague tells me this is unfair: it actually lasted 23 seconds. Apologies, I would hate to suggest that Mr Hogg was ever curt.) And all this happening to a man who suffers the worst burden which anyone can bear — the absolute certainty that he is right. There's a line in Broadcast News when someone says sarcastically to Holly Hunter: "It must be great looking round a room and knowing you're the only person there who's right." She replies: "No, it's not, it's horrible." Mr Hogg must feel the same way. And of course there's that ridiculous wide-brimmed hat, which comes from some interland between trendy metropolitan London and the rich cattle lands of the Argentine pampas. He is a gaucho from the Groucho. Yesterday the jet-lagged Mr Hogg made a statement about the European Union talks in Luxembourg. There was a complete failure for Britain.

in that nothing we were prepared to offer would make our European "partners" lift the ban on British beef. Naturally none of this was the Government's fault. Indeed, you would imagine from Mr Hogg's statement that the crisis was almost over. With his staccato speech, in which exclamation marks appear in quite unlikely places, he declared: "There are encouraging signs that confidence is returning. Retailers' say their customers are looking for beef again. "Set These with cattle to send to market should know there are buyers for British! beef! The whole trade is beginning to return... beef is! for all practical purposes safe to eat... safer than it has ever been!" raved. Gavin Strang, his Labour opposite number, felt this Bovril-fuelled machismo did not quite meet the occasion. He wanted to know, reasonably enough, how many cattle would have to be slaughtered. And when might the ban be lifted? It was at this moment that Mr Hogg suddenly decomposed in front of our eyes. His body flopped against the despatch box, his feet twisted round each other, and he gripped his hands together, as if afraid they might fall off. He started slowly, menacingly, in the manner of a TV barrister who has suddenly got his hands on the crucial piece of evidence. "Beginning your pardon, sir, but I found this letter in the lodger's jacket. D'yer think it might be important?" "Mrs Bottomley, this letter might just save a man's life." "Let me make this first point," he said. Then he got louder. "So that the House can hear it very clearly! The honourable gentleman did NOT condemn! the ban! He has expressed his understanding of the ban!" The voice went higher. You could hear the larynx twang. "Those who have heard the [drop to low sneaky voice] honourable gentleman! will take comfort!" Mere typography cannot convey the controlled hysteria, the dampened dementia. The Chief Whip held his hand in front of his face. Messrs Major and Heseltine took deep calming breaths. The Opposition roared. The moment for which they had waited so long had come.

Cabinet rallies behind minister as failure to end export ban leaves industry fearing mass job losses EU snubs Hogg over beef

THE Cabinet yesterday put on a public display of support for Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, who returned virtually empty-handed from Luxembourg after failing to persuade his European counterparts to lift the ban on British beef. Although Mr Hogg secured a pledge that the European Union will foot 70 per cent of the bill for tackling mad cow disease after a marathon 55-hour session, in a Commons statement he denounced the EU's decision not to lift the

sweeping ban as "unjustified". The lack of progress in Brussels and the continued indefinite ban on exports has left British farmers and the meat production industry in a state of uncertainty, with large scale job losses and bankruptcies looming. Even Cameron, president of the Country Landowners' Association, said: "I cannot stress enough the gravity of the situation with a whole range of firms unable to survive for many more days." Ministers packed the government front bench in the Commons to publicly endorse Mr Hogg — in stark contrast to the poor Labour turnout opposite — while Downing

Street stressed John Major had "complete confidence" in Mr Hogg. Nevertheless, the Agriculture Minister has indicated he would be prepared to resign over the BSE affair. Mr Hogg sought to play down his humiliating return from Luxembourg by telling MPs that there were "encouraging signs" that consumer confidence in beef was returning. He said retailers had met Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, and told him that they need to begin buying beef again. "So those with cattle to send to market should know that there are willing buyers for British beef." His confidence was not reflected in action in abattoirs and the meat processing

industry. Sales in supermarkets were mainly cut price sales from meat stored before the crisis. Mr Hogg's immediate problem is to thrash out a slaughter plan that is acceptable to the EU by the time agriculture ministers meet on April 29. He told MPs preparations were being made to bring into effect "as soon as possible" slaughter and disposal for up to 4.5 million cows over the age of 30 months when they have reached the end of their useful lives as dairy cows. In addition, he said, the Government would be "giving further thought" to the idea of selective, but tightly controlled culling of animals most at risk of BSE.

In further measures designed to restore movement to the beef processing system, Mr Hogg announced moves to waive meat inspection charges — payable by slaughterhouses. In addition, qualified "expert accountants" are to be drafted in to advise on "the immediate problems of the industry and how they could be solved." Gavin Strang, the shadow agriculture minister, said the deal brought back to London by Mr Hogg amounted to "the worst of all worlds" and left Britain's farmers with nothing but uncertainty. "Once again, a weak Government that is isolated in Europe has completely failed to represent Britain's interests in Europe.

Far from securing a complete package of measures to tackle the crisis, you are expected now to go back to Brussels with a proposal for an additional selective slaughter scheme. "Do you recognise the industry is now confronted with huge uncertainty? They have no idea how many additional cows the Government will condemn and no idea when Britain will again be allowed to export beef and beef products." A furious Mr Hogg said Labour's refusal to condemn the EU ban on beef exports was "outrageous".

Sketch, page 2; Hogg's humiliating defeat, page 5

First night

Wit and accuracy augur golden age

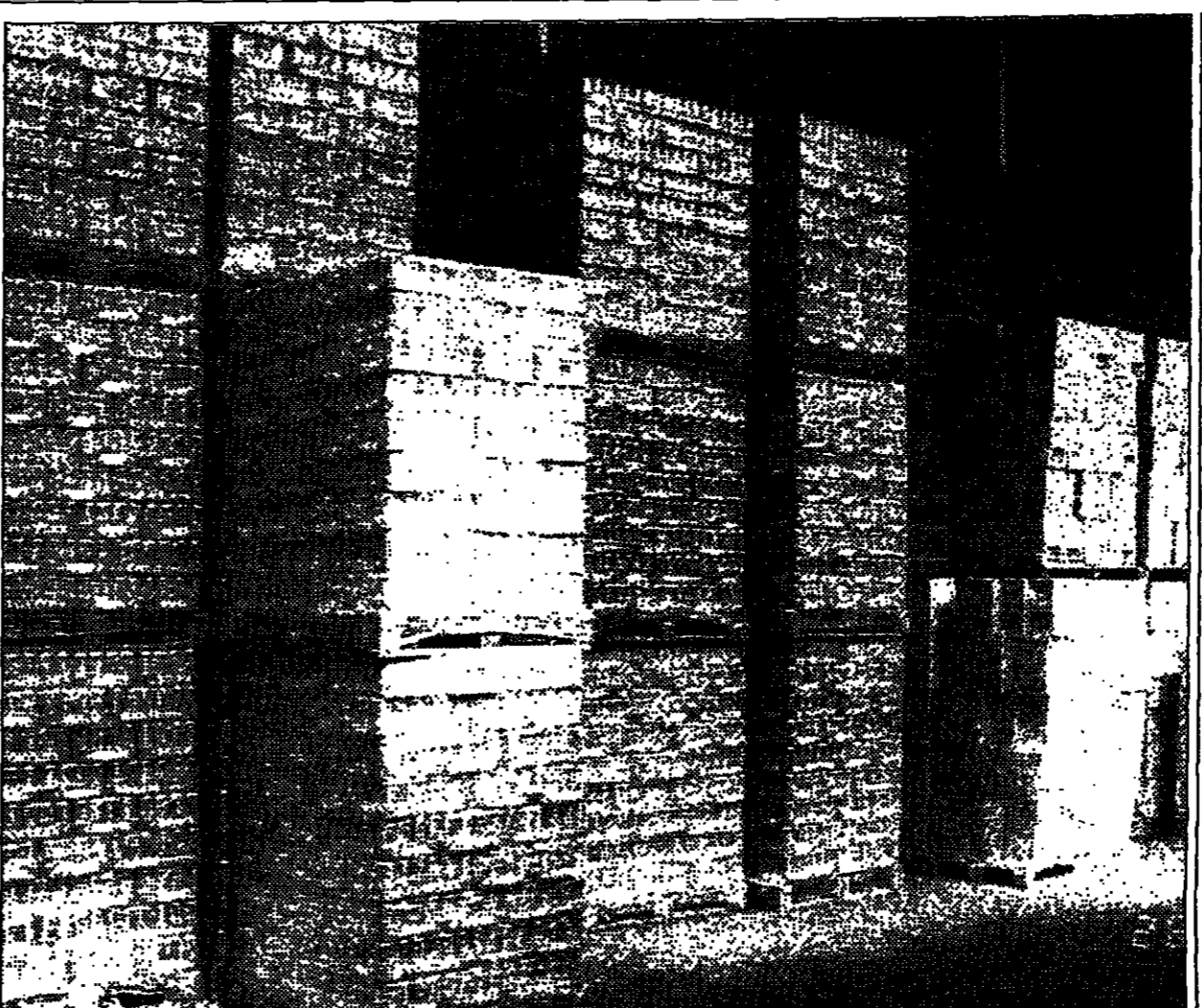
Michael Billington Clocks and Whistles Bush Theatre THEY keep on coming. This week's astonishingly assured first play by an unknown 28-year-old is Samuel Adams and it leads me to think that if all the new writers discovered recently remain uncorrupted by television, the theatre may be on the threshold of a golden age. What marks Adams out from other writers in the Bush's London Fragments season is that his characters are not noticeably deprived. They are mostly articulate, witty and in work: very like the Briton hedonists in Doug Lucie's Hard Feelings at this same theatre in 1983. Yet Adams also pins down, with wounding accuracy, the sexual and emotional confusion that underlies their apparent confidence. Henry, the pivotal figure, is a young graduate now in publishing who is tentatively but predominantly gay. He is beset by Anne, a cool, Sloane actress-friend, but is physically drawn to Trevor, a promiscuous, Paddington-based bisexual who writes bad poetry, collects people like objects and gets by on mischievous charm. And when Trevor cunningly appropriates Anne, poor Henry is left confronting his own ineffectual jealousy

and desperate need for love. Adams has written a deeply metropolitan comedy of manners in which people are defined by their jobs, where they live, the cafes they frequent and by their own untethered emotions. What prevents the play being parochial is Adams's portrait of a mid-twenties generation that suffers, like its elders, from what E M Forster called "the under-developed heart". Trevor, pubs, clubs and sleeps around with no concern for commitment or indeed without thought for AIDS. And Anne, financially protected by a pseudo-American sugar daddy, is a ruthless egotist. Like many of his contemporaries, Adams is stronger on dialogue than on plot. But he catches exactly each character's tone of voice and Dominic Dromgoole, in his last production as the Bush's director, gets dead-accurate performances all round. John Light as Henry has the right shambling, pullovered niceness. Kate Beckinsale as Anne is all hilarious clipped vowels and terrifyingly single-mindedness and Neil Stuke's Trevor has the show-off sexiness of a Dorset farm-boy struggling to be Joe Orton. It is a highly promising play that manages both to be a sharp satire on the style-conscious generation and a poignant account of their quest for a permanent identity. This review appeared in some editions yesterday



Pair in 9m can lager fraud

GAFFERS who keep cash and carry shops stocked with the strong lagers in a fraud made possible by the easing of Customs checks following the abolition of EC border controls in 1992. Southwark crown court heard. Martin, aged 37, of Southgate, north London, made a seven-figure fortune by charging unsuspecting purchasers VAT and the 100 per cent duty that normally went with high strength beers — such as Carlsberg Special Brew and



Beer stored at a warehouse by millionaire Ellis Martin (above left) whose fraud involved 350,000 crates

Tennents Extra — and pocketing the money himself. With the proceeds he lived a luxury lifestyle, paying cash for a £270,000 house with a swimming pool and buying two Mercedes convertibles. If the 350,000 crates of beer involved in the case were stacked on top of one another they would create a "39-mile high hangover" — nearly eight times higher than Everest, the prosecution counsel claimed. Customs and Excise spokes-

man Alan Jarrett said the verdict would make a significant contribution to "stemming the flow of duty free alcohol". He added: "Although the bootlegging of alcohol from the Continent is high profile at present, this case is in a different league. The organisation was very professional." After 23 hours of deliberation spanning five days the jury convicted Martin of five charges of cheating Customs & Excise out of £7.75 million.

duty and VAT between November 1993 and June 1994. He was arrested following a three-month surveillance operation on both sides of the Channel. Bonded warehouse managing director James White, aged 49, of High Halstow in Kent, was found guilty of two charges of evading duty after the court heard how he stored the alcohol and provided fraudulent documentation. After an 11-week trial, costing £2 million, both men were

remanded in custody. Judge Valerie Pearman adjourned sentencing until April 29 for Martin's assets to be investigated. The first stage of Martin's seven-month operation involved collecting 27 lorry loads of duty-free beer from a bonded warehouse in Walsall, West Midlands, which he claimed were to be exported to Russia, Nigeria and Gibraltar. Instead the goods were sold directly to shopkeepers in Britain. The second stage entailed shipping 230 lorry loads of beer to Calais, where he had set up a front company called Euro Beers and Wines, and then re-exporting it back to Britain where it was diverted on to the open market.

Beer run

Most beer is smuggled in at Dover on ferries from Calais. Nearly 1 million litres of beer were seized at Dover in the 12 months to December 1995. Beer brewed in Britain can be exported to avoid duty and smuggled back in. Alternatively, false export documents are drawn up and the beer never crosses the Channel. This is known as diversion fraud. Bootleggers are ordered to pay the excise duty owed on beer smuggled in plus an on-the-spot fine. Their vehicle as well as the beer can be confiscated. Only big seizures result in prosecution. Customs officers at the ports are seeing a growing amount of strong lager smuggled in. Excise duty rises according to the strength of the brew: for a pint of beer containing 4.1 per cent alcohol by volume, the duty is 25.2p. There was a rise in the number of bootleggers caught smuggling alcohol and tobacco into the country in 1995. Customs & Excise reported almost 5,000 cases and £14 million in taxes evaded.

Pentagon blow to Gulf veterans

New study finds no evidence to support mystery war syndrome

LAN KATZ in New York AFTER a huge study of veterans of Operation Desert Storm, the Pentagon has declared that no evidence has been found of the so-called Gulf War Syndrome which thousands of servicemen have complained of since the 1991 conflict. Veterans groups in the United States say that as many as 3,000 servicemen have been killed and 120,000 disabled by a mysterious illness contracted during the campaign to liberate Kuwait. But the Pentagon investigators found the symptoms were caused by a range of well-known illnesses rather than any single disease which could be traced to exposure to a chemical or biological agent during the Kuwait campaign. The results appeared to support the conclusions of doctors from the department of veteran affairs who have

examined more than 57,000 former servicemen without, they say, identifying a pattern of symptoms that could be linked to the war. The latest study is a significant blow to campaigners who have been fighting for governmental recognition that the largely sanitised war left a legacy of health problems, from extreme skin rashes to memory loss and fatigue. The Clinton administration has hardened its position on Gulf War Syndrome since the president launched investigative and treatment programmes two years ago promising to "leave no stone unturned" in the search for the cause of illnesses. The latest study is part of a programme intended primarily to treat veterans who believe they may be suffering ill-effects. "We're not saying that we've closed the book on this," said a Pentagon spokesman. "But 18,000 is a pretty powerful number." The unveiling of the study comes less than a week after a

British doctor claimed that troops may have suffered irreversible nerve damage after being given drugs to protect them against attack from chemical weapons. Dr Goran Jamal of the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow, said he believed that breathlessness and headaches suffered by a group of British Gulf War veterans were probably caused by an anti-nerve agent vaccination given to all 61,000 British troops deployed in the Gulf. After years of denying the existence of Gulf War Syndrome, the Ministry of Defence announced earlier this year it would conduct a statistical survey to establish whether Gulf veterans were more likely to have children with birth defects or suffer from unexplained symptoms. Gulf veterans in the US, Britain and Canada have complained of a broad range of symptoms, including digestive problems, breathing difficulties, depression, weakness and muscular and skeletal disorders.

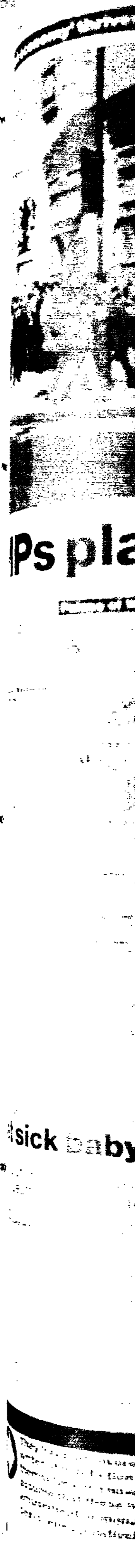
Woolwich 'agrees not to call in police' over expenses

continued from page 1 of pension rights for his 33 years' service. Rob MacGregor, the assistant secretary of the Biff union, accused the society of "double standards of the worst kind". He pointed out that the Woolwich would have been expected to prosecute any ordinary employee suspected of being involved in any financial irregularity. Negotiations are today expected to continue between lawyers of the building society and Mr Robinson. Among the disputed expenses being negotiated are allegations that two Woolwich gardeners regularly worked three days a week in the grounds of Mr Robinson's £450,000 private home in Brasted, Kent, it emerged last night. Other allegations also involve suggestions that Mr Robinson failed to get proper authorisation when he charged the cost of a Range Rover to the Woolwich. And the internal audit committee is also concerned about sug-

gestions that Mr Robinson made use of company contractors for refurbishing his home, including the installation of a gym. The internal audit was ordered to enquire nothing was amiss in the accounts before they were thrown open to City bankers preparing for a £3 billion stock market flotation of the society. Neighbours in Mr Robinson's village were taken aback yesterday. "He's a very good neighbour and I'm absolutely shocked and stunned by what has happened," said one woman. A close friend, who also declared himself stunned by the news, said: "It doesn't seem real to me." "When you consider the facts, and how rich he is, it seems rather strange. I suppose we shall have to wait and see what comes out in due course. He added: "I always felt he'd reach the top, he's one of those characters. All this that they're saying now about him just doesn't ring true."

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'Black economy' thrives as members pay doormen cash in hand to take parties round



People's choice... The Houses of Parliament have 3,000 visitors a week, and MPs receive 16 tickets each a day to admit parties of constituents

PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

Referendum fails to heal Tory rifts

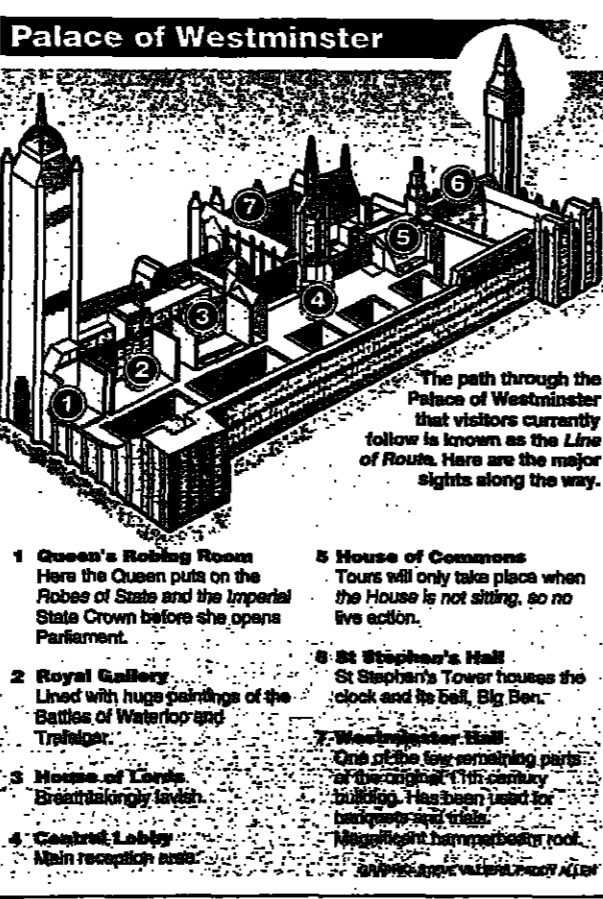
Michael White Political Editor
THE Cabinet's decision to promise a referendum if a future Tory government decides to join a European single currency last night prompted claims of victory from both sides in the party's simmering civil war... and an ominous escalation of demands from its Eurosceptic wing. The most revealing sign of tension was the refusal by the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke - five times - to deny rumours that he had taken the issue to the point of resignation. After repeatedly declining to discuss his past criticism of referendums in general, Mr Clarke said he accepted the tactical necessity of this one to get the Tories through the next election before a decision is required. "This is a collective decision on which we have all agreed, and there is certainly no dissent," he said. But when he was again pressed on the resignation issue on Radio 4's World at One, the Chancellor pointedly answered: "I did not threaten my colleagues with resignation this morning. We have the agreement that there will be a collective decision when the time comes." He repeated the careful "this morning" formula on Channel 4 News, "You don't deal in threats," he said. The pro-European Mr Clarke has been trying to keep options open on a single currency, and even claimed yesterday he could envisage circumstances in which the Franco-German blueprint would be damaging to the national interest, and he would argue against UK membership. Few MPs can yet believe that. Loyalists claimed last night that John Major has privately been manoeuvring towards yesterday's agreement for two years - despite public denials. The tactical thinking is that it will end the internal Tory row, marginalise Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party and expose Labour to renewed charges of Euro-federalism. But within hours of Mr

MPs plan to charge visitors

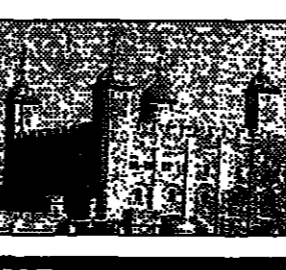
£5 fee urged to end 'abuse' of Parliament guided tours

David Hencke, Westminster Correspondent

VISITORS to the Houses of Parliament may have to pay for the first time because MPs feel the present free system is being abused and is considered inappropriate for one of the nation's oldest institutions. MPs are calling for a £5 a head entry fee for a guided tour of Parliament, to pay for a new centralised booking system. Under the present informal arrangement, every MP can have 16 free tickets a day for constituents. Parliament has more than 3,000 visitors every week. Yesterday the Guardian was told by a number of MPs who did not want to be named that many of them, rather than take parties round themselves, were paying door attendants £20 to take people on the extensive tour of Parliament, which includes visits to both chambers. One said: "There is basically a black economy existing inside Parliament. Some MPs are charging groups the £20, or telling them to pay the attendants themselves. Most attendants do two tours a day, earning £160-£200 a week on top of their wages on the four or five days a week tours are available, depending on whether Parliament is sitting. There is also a market for



permits - which admit 16 people - because MPs do not always take up their quota. Details of the MPs' views have emerged in a confidential questionnaire commissioned by the Serjeant-At-Arms Department, responsible for services to MPs. The survey - by the management consultant Janet Levin Associates - reveals that most MPs feel "the present informal system [for book-



What you pay

- Tower of London: Adults £8.50; children £5.50
Buckingham Palace: Adults £8.50; over 60s £6; children under 17 £4.50
Alton Towers: Adults £17; children under 14 £13; under 4 free
Legoland: Adults £15; seniors £11; children 3-15 £12; under 3: free
Windsor Castle: Adults £8.50; children under 17 £4.50; over 60s £6
British Museum: Free

'It's a national institution and should be free for everyone'

Vivik Chaudhary and David Hencke

THE thought of paying £5 to tour the mother of parliaments was as popular as a government announcement on tax increases among visitors queuing to watch the House of Commons in action yesterday. Nine out of 10 said they thought it was wrong, inappropriate or too expensive. One of the few supporters was a visiting Bulgarian, Igor Koutsenok, from the newly free-market capital Sofia, who said: "Given the cost of everything else, I think £5 for a tour is good value for money." Bob D'Lauro, from the more established free-market tradition of Philadelphia, the United States, echoed the sentiments of his eastern-European capitalist colleague. "If it

means less queuing than I think it's a small price to pay." The rest - British and foreign visitors alike - were not enamoured with paid entry. Nimi Weitoft, from Eslov, Sweden, queuing to watch a debate in the House of Lords, said: "I am not really sure about paying to see a parliament. I have been on a tour of Congress in America where it may have cost £4." Her daughter Maria, aged 14, was more critical. "I don't think we should pay at all. I don't think we should pay to go into Buckingham Palace, the Queen is a very rich woman, she doesn't need the money." Jonathan Aspin, aged 27, from Frankfurt, added: "It's a national institution and it should be free for everyone." Albert Cottee, from Nice, said: "In France, it would cause a public outcry." British visitors were even more sceptical. Eric Dupin, from Deptford, south London, and his sister Veronique, from Orpington, Kent, described it as a rip-off. "I don't think we should be charged to go into our own parliament." Other proposals in the report include an induction course on how to do the job and a "what to do on your first day" guide for newly-selected MPs, as well as a "welcome pack" for staff and MPs.

Top rugby club's chairman and director on fraud charge

Paul Fitzpatrick, Rugby League Correspondent

THE chairman of Britain's top rugby league club, Wigan, and a director were last night charged with conspiracy to defraud by police looking into allegations of an attempted bogus transfer deal. Jack Robinson, the chairman, and John Martin were arrested at their homes early yesterday by police from the Greater Manchester force. They were bailed to appear before Wigan magistrates on May 8, the day Wigan play the rugby union team Bath in a historic meeting at Maine Road. A third man, Neil Cowie, who plays for Wigan and is Mr Martin's son-in-law, was arrested but later released. Three weeks ago Mr Robin-

son, an antiques dealer, said there were several errors in a front-page article in the Wigan Observer which accused him of trying to set up a transfer deal involving Mr Cowie and Leeds. That followed an earlier report alleging that Mr Cowie was among Wigan players who were involved in a drunken partying in a Tenerife hotel shortly before the team were knocked out of the Challenge Cup by Salford. Since then the Rugby Football League has launched its own investigation into the affair, and detectives are understood to have visited Wigan's ground, Central Park, to interview players. The Salford defeat was the first suffered by Wigan in the cup for nine years. They have also been league champions for the last eight years.

Let sick baby die, judge rules

Ending of brain damaged girl's 'living death' not a precedent

Clare Dyer Legal Correspondent

PROFOUNDLY brain damaged three-month-old girl should be taken off the ventilator keeping her alive and allowed to die in peace, England's senior family judge ruled yesterday. Sir Stephen Brown, president of the High Court's family division, said Baby C's future was quite hopeless. "It is a terrible thing to have to say... it is almost a living death." The British Medical Association had hoped Sir Stephen would lay down guidelines to help doctors faced with life-or-death decisions over severely disabled babies in up to

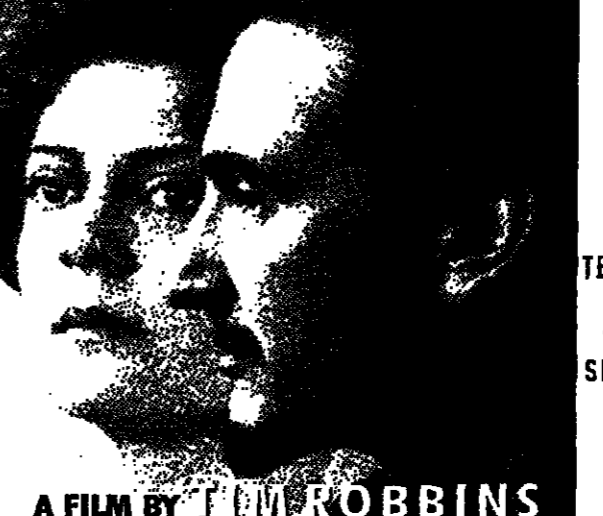
1,000 cases a year to decide which cases should come to court. But he refused, saying each case must be decided on its particular facts. Sir Stephen said the baby's parents, doctors and consultant surgeons were all agreed it was not in the child's interests to continue to be ventilated artificially. "It is quite clear that this little baby does not have what can really be described as an independent existence." Arrangements would be made for ventilation to be withdrawn, with sedation to "ease her passage", said the judge. She would die within an hour or so. The baby, whose young parents come from Humber-side, is a ward of court and

cannot be named. Sir Stephen heard the case in open court because it raised issues of public importance. Michael Taylor, counsel for the NHS trust hospital in Lincolnshire caring for the baby, told the judge she was born eight weeks prematurely and had picked up a particularly virulent form of meningitis which had left her severely brain damaged. The prognosis was that she would never develop beyond the level of a six-week-old baby and would be blind and deaf, and would be incapable of any social interaction. She had a life expectancy of up to two years. However, she would suffer distress and pain from the treatment and also if she were left without treatment. To avoid pain, she would have to be sedated to an insensate level with morphine. The judge said the parents,

who were in court, had faced the situation bravely and recognized the child's best interests of their child. He said it was right that the medical profession should have recourse to the courts for assistance in difficult cases. Many moral, ethical and practical problems were involved. A spokesman for the Official Solicitor, who acted as the baby's guardian in the case, said: "For the time being, if we're asked we will have to say all baby ventilator cases must come to court. According to the BMA, if all these cases come to court there will be hundreds of them." The British Paediatric Association is developing guidelines for doctors on when to withdraw life support from severely damaged babies, but these are not expected for six months.

WINNER ACADEMY AWARD BEST ACTRESS - SUSAN SARANDON

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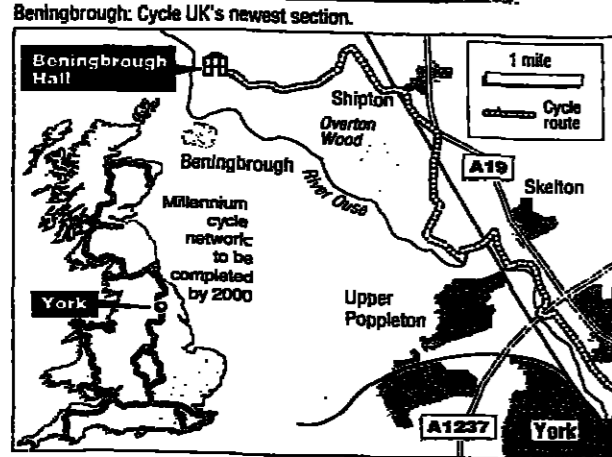
DEAD MAN WALKING

Now showing at various cinema locations including Warner West End, MGM Shaftesbury, MGM Fulham Rd, MGM Baker St, Odeon, Odeon, Gaiety, Phoenix, and others. Includes contact information for each location.

They have discovered it is not enough to be an accomplished writer of non-fiction: life is incomplete unless they express themselves in a novel. As they do not write thrillers, we must assume that these men crave literary esteem rather than amusement or money. Their themes are weighty; their sex-scenes positively elephantine.



**New cycle route**



Martin Wainwright hits the trail with cyclists inaugurating the first stretch of a 6,500-mile national transport system



Cyclists on the first stretch of the National Cycle Network along the Ouse north of York, with interesting markers by the way (below) PHOTOGRAPHS DON MCPHES

**Pedal pioneers launch £180m round-Britain route**

WITH a clatter of the Abingdon Differential gears on his 1922 Triumph tricycle, John Coulson peddled on to the first link of Britain's latest national transport system yesterday.

"Only 6,491 miles to go," said Lucy Thorp of the network's organisers, Sustrans - Sustainable Transport - who were awarded £2.5 million last year from the Lottery Millennium Fund towards the £180 million project.

"We're delighted to have another visitor attraction here in North Yorkshire, and a safer route for cyclists," said Mr Coulson, removing his bowler hat at the fledgling route's current terminus, the National Trust mansion of Beningbrough Hall. Another cyclist, Robin Hasler, Sustrans regional route surveyor, was meanwhile doing cost-benefit sums.

"This network will give 6,500 miles of cycle route for the cost of widening 10 miles of the M25," he said. "With the environmental and safety advantages, I think that's pretty good."

The network will eventually link the 12-mile Cuckoo Trail in Sussex to the Rising Sun and Tyne Tunnel route on the north-east coast, to other new protected paths and minor roads. The Wales Route from Holyhead to Cardiff, is due to open in May and a "trailblazer ride" in July to

raise money and support for the network will cover 760 miles from Belfast to Land's End via Dublin and Holyhead.



**Teaching union seeks abolition of Ofsted**

John Carvel Education Editor

THE most moderate of the teaching unions voted overwhelmingly yesterday for the abolition of the Office For Standards in Education, amid a barrage of protest at constant carping about falling schools from the chief inspector, Chris Woodhead.

Robin Squire, the schools minister, denied that Mr Woodhead was following political instructions from Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary. He hinted that the department was uneasy about its lack of control over the chief inspector, who is understood to exploit direct personal links with John Major.

your weight machine. It is about as interesting to read as a local toilet paper and nowhere near as useful," he said.

**1,000 village schools left out of tables**

ABOUT 1,000 small village schools are likely to be omitted from the first primary league tables which the Government intends to publish early next year to measure the performance of 11-year-olds, writes John Carvel.

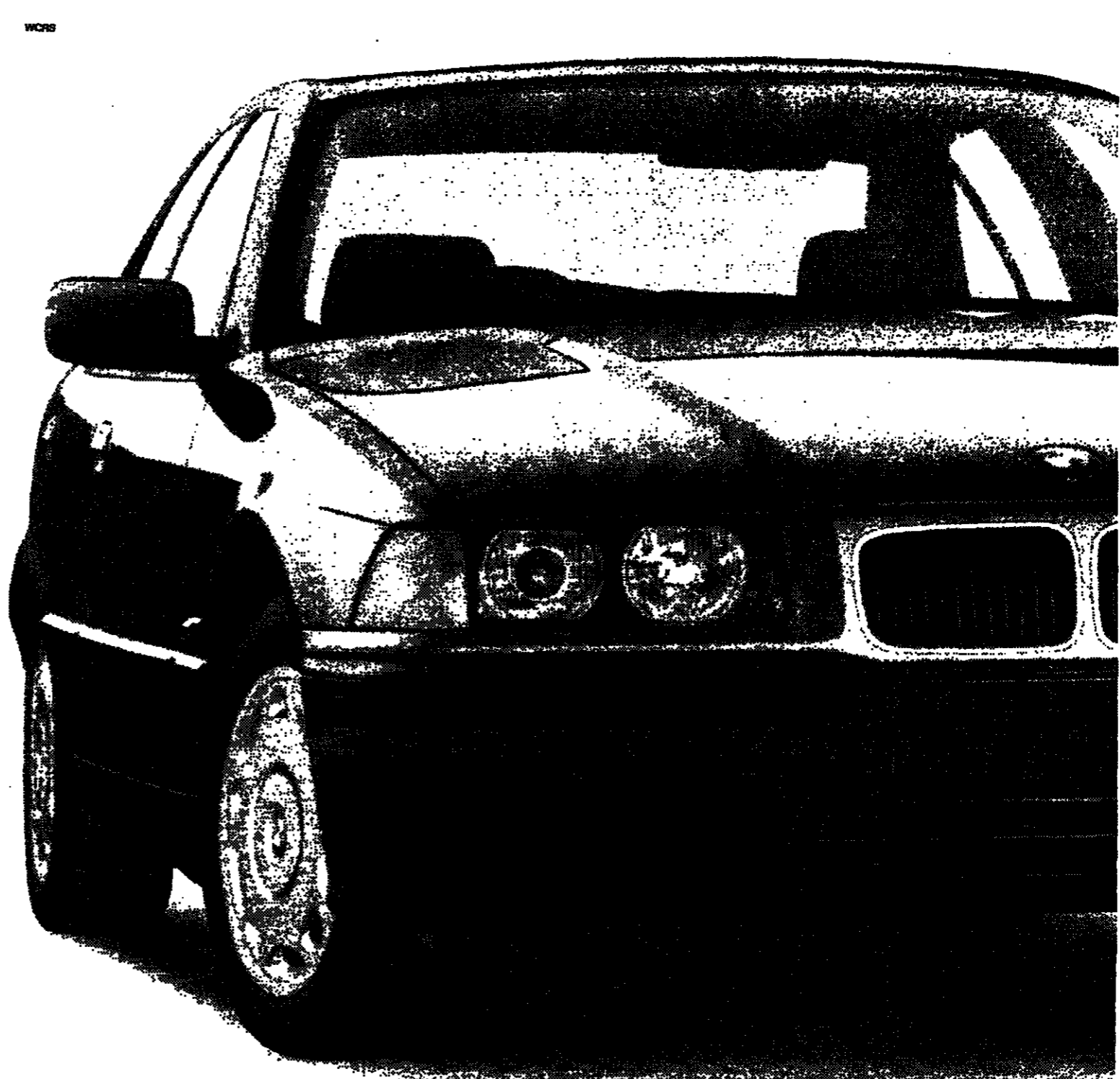
**'Trendy' past master who now champions traditional methods**

CHRIS Woodhead's past as a trendy teacher, who put contemporary working class novels on a par with Shakespeare and could not hold the attention of his class, was revealed yesterday at the conference, writes John Carvel.

advocate of traditional methods - gave the children lessons on abortion, the unions and sex before marriage, according to a letter from a former pupil read out by Sally Morrison, a teacher from Stevenage.



Chris Woodhead: 'lessons on sex before marriage'



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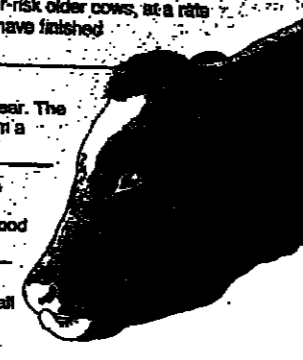
Deaths charge major cleared

The Guardian Thursday April 4 1996

BRITAIN 5

Beef - the European package

- Anti-BSE measures were agreed at a European farm ministers meeting. Under the package Britain must:
- Produce detailed plans for a cull of animals and entire flocks likely to have been exposed to BSE.
- Destroy around 4.68 million higher-risk older cows, at a rate of some 15,000 a week, when they have faste...



Minister's arrogance alienates European partners as British meat industry remains on tenterhooks over jobs at risk



Dairy farmer Nick Baker, from Pocklington, North Yorkshire, reflects on an uncertain future as the rural economy faces crisis

Penned in by dead market

CATTLE farmer Nick Baker was out in his tractor sowing grass seed yesterday on the rim of the North York Moors... In the fields, food byres and calf-pens of Low Pasture Farm at Lockton, an impossible situation is building up... "We should have sent 40 one-year-olds to Shrewsbury this week," said Mr Baker...

Hogg's mission ends in a humiliating defeat

Stephen Bates in Luxembourg... THE hunched shoulders of the demoralised British officials who had sat up all night, two nights' running, negotiating to get the worldwide ban on British beef lifted at the European agriculture ministers meeting said it all yesterday. They had lost and they knew it... "There isn't a compensation policy which could compensate for the loss of our dairy herd here - 170 cows - and the 200 suckler herd my wife looks after at Driffield," he said.

Firms only 'days away' from disaster, warn landowners

Paul Brown and Owen Bowcott... THOUSANDS of jobs in the meat industry remain at risk following the inconclusive meeting of farm ministers in Brussels... "We are worried about our members and the whole chain of businesses which depend on them. From my office I can see a market, an abattoir, and a meat processing factory. They have all had to let workers go in the last two weeks."

Advertisement for Woolwich Direct mortgage. Text: "It's easy to save on your mortgage. No arrangement fee • 3% discount. No valuation fee • No legal fees. Move to Woolwich Direct. 4.25% (4.3% APR). WE'RE STRAIGHT DOWN THE LINE 0645 75 75 75. WOOLWICH DIRECT."

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Jonathan Freedland in Washington profiles Ron Brown

# 'Super-salesman' rose from Harlem to cabinet

THE apparent death of Ron Brown robs the Clinton administration of a cabinet high-flyer, party wizard and one of the few African-American politicians to reach the very heart of the United States government.

Mr Brown won plaudits from Republicans and Democrats for his transformation of the role of commerce secretary from a low-key post into that of a "super-salesman" for American goods.

Although he faced intense scrutiny for what Republicans claimed was extravagance at government expense, most in Washington credited Mr Brown's frequent foreign trips with a huge surge in US export orders — worth an estimated \$13 billion (\$2.5 billion) in a single year.

It is partly thanks to his personal advocacy that the commerce department still exists at all. Many of the Republicans who took control of Congress in the 1994 landslide wanted to shut the agency down — a move Mr Brown resisted fiercely.

But Ron Brown is likely to be remembered best as a consummate party manager. He took over as chairman of the Democratic National Committee in 1989 when party morale was at an all-time low after the humiliating election defeat of Michael Dukakis the previous year.



Polished in the eyes of his friends, slippery to his opponents, Brown cut a distinguished figure in the often bland circles of Washington power.

Few gave Mr Brown much chance of success, yet within four years he was credited with a key role in Bill Clinton's winning presidential election. The commerce job was his reward.

Polished in the eyes of his friends, slippery to his opponents, Ron Brown cut a distinguished figure in the often bland circles of Washington power. Charming, and with a fondness for Italian suits, he had little in common with either the old-style party bosses or the leadership of the black civil rights movement.

He prided himself on moving effortlessly between white and black America. He was one of the few US politicians equally at home addressing a southern Baptist church or a business breakfast.

for coddling oppressive regimes, like China's, in his dogged pursuit of lucrative trade deals. In February 1995 he became the subject of an inquiry by an independent counsel — the special prosecutor of old.

He was accused of conflicts of interest since, as commerce secretary, he dealt with governments — including Vietnam — that he had previously represented as a Washington lawyer and lobbyist.

He was reprimanded for failing to disclose his financial interests in a tangle of communications businesses. And there was the question of the \$400,000 he received from a company he co-owned, even though he had invested no money in the firm and it made no profit.

Attention focused on a costly townhouse in Washington which, it was suggested,

Mr Brown might not have paid for himself.

President Clinton paid tribute yesterday to his friend and colleague.

There is bound to be concern at the White House about how to replace a man many tipped to head Mr Clinton's re-election campaign. Ron Brown didn't want the job, but he admitted few were better qualified for it.

There will be equal anxiety about the apparent loss of the administration's strongest link with the black community. With the exception of retired general Colin Powell, no black American had risen to higher rank in the US executive branch.

He crafted the administration's Big Emerging Market strategy, rooting out new opportunities in Latin America and Asia. His past itinerary included trips to Russia, South Africa and the West Bank and Gaza, his latest mission was, once again, about spotting a new chance — this time construction contracts in Bosnia.

Friends said Ron Brown learned to be at ease with people from his father, who managed the Theresa Hotel in Harlem. Mingling with the likes of Billie Holiday and Duke Ellington left Ron Brown with a confidence that never wavered. He was, it seems, a man who embraced life and feared nothing.



Takeover... Defiant inmates of Caseros prison peered out of holes in the wall during a wave of jail riots across Argentina involving 4,000 prisoners in five penitentiaries. PHOTOGRAPH: AUGUSTO ARTURI

## US court boost to assisted suicide

Ian Katz in New York

THE United States moved closer to legalising euthanasia in this week when a federal appeals court overturned a state law barring doctor-assisted suicide for the second time in a month.

The Second US Circuit Court of Appeals struck down the New York bar on doctors prescribing lethal drugs to patients on the grounds that terminally ill people have the same right to end their lives as those

on life support machines. The ruling follows developments which have turned assisted suicide into the most pressing moral issue to face the American court system since the judicial argument over abortion.

But yesterday's appeal court conclusion will not save George Delury, a New York editor, from jail for helping his wife to commit suicide last year.

Mr Delury, aged 63, became a cause célèbre among right-to-die activists last month when he accepted a plea bargain which will

require him to serve a six-month sentence for giving Myrna Lebov, aged 52, a fatal cocktail of drugs on July 4.

He claimed Ms Lebov, who was suffering from multiple sclerosis, was determined to end her own life but prosecutors said he had encouraged her to commit suicide for his own convenience.

The appeal court ruling does not affect Mr Delury because it specifies that only doctors may help people to take their own lives.

The three judges found that the New York law against assisted suicide was unconstitutional because it effectively discriminated against patients who were not on life support. Patients who are artificially kept alive may opt in advance to be "switched off".

The New York ruling will only add to the circus-like atmosphere surrounding the trial of the "suicide doctor" Jack Kevorkian who is being prosecuted in Michigan for helping two severely ill "patients" to die.

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<b>BONUS GOLD*</b> (including Bonus)									
£100,000+	5.75	-	4.60	5.60	-	4.53	5.35	-	4.28
£50,000+	5.45	-	4.36	5.30	-	4.25	5.15	-	4.12
£25,000+	5.25	-	4.20	5.10	-	4.05	4.95	-	3.96
£10,000+	5.00	-	4.00	4.85	-	3.80	4.80	-	3.84
<b>Monthly Income Option (including Bonus)</b>									
£100,000+	5.62	5.75	4.50	5.47	5.60	4.53	5.35	4.18	4.26
£50,000+	5.33	5.45	4.26	5.19	5.30	4.04	5.15	4.03	4.10
£25,000+	5.14	5.25	4.11	5.00	5.10	3.95	4.95	3.80	3.94
£10,000+	4.90	5.00	3.92	4.76	4.85	3.71	4.80	3.77	3.83
<b>SOLID GOLD*</b>									
£50,000+	4.85	-	3.88	4.70	-	3.65	4.65	-	3.72
£25,000+	4.60	-	3.68	4.45	-	3.48	4.40	-	3.52
£10,000+	4.10	-	3.28	4.10	-	3.25	4.10	-	3.28
£5,000+	3.95	-	2.68	3.50	-	3.25	3.50	-	2.60
£500+	3.05	-	2.44	2.90	-	2.90	2.90	-	2.32
<b>Monthly Income Option</b>									
£50,000+	4.75	4.85	3.80	4.60	4.70	3.65	4.65	3.64	3.70
£25,000+	4.51	4.60	3.61	4.36	4.45	3.41	4.40	3.45	3.50
£10,000+	4.02	4.09	3.22	3.88	3.95	3.02	4.09	3.22	3.27
£5,000+	3.80	3.85	2.64	3.73	3.80	3.20	3.75	2.96	2.99
£500+	3.01	3.05	2.41	2.86	2.90	2.86	2.90	2.29	2.31
<b>LIQUID GOLD*</b>									
£25,000+	3.70	-	2.96	3.55	-	3.45	-	2.76	-
£10,000+	3.30	-	2.64	3.15	-	3.15	-	2.52	-
£5,000+	2.90	-	2.32	2.75	-	2.70	-	2.16	-
£2,500+	2.70	-	2.16	2.55	-	2.55	-	2.00	-
£500+	2.45	-	1.96	2.30	-	2.30	-	1.76	-
£50+	0.75	-	0.60	0.75	-	0.75	-	0.60	-
<b>ASSET RESERVE CHEQUE ACCOUNT</b>									
£50,000+	4.95	5.04	3.96	4.85	5.04	4.35	4.42	3.48	3.53
£25,000+	4.27	4.33	3.72	4.65	4.75	3.90	3.96	3.12	3.16
£10,000+	4.30	4.37	3.44	4.30	4.37	3.65	3.70	2.92	2.95
£5,000+	3.60	3.65	2.88	3.68	3.65	3.35	3.39	2.68	2.71
<b>YOUNG SAVER</b>	3.10	3.12	2.48	2.90	3.10	3.12	-	-	-
<b>MAXIM CURRENT ACCOUNT</b>									
£2,000+	1.00	1.00	0.80	0.80	-	-	-	-	-
£50+	0.50	0.50	0.40	0.40	-	-	-	-	-
<b>MAXIM</b>									
Under 21 and Student Maxim	3.10	3.14	2.48	2.51	-	-	-	-	-
<b>CARDCASE</b>									
£50+	0.50	0.50	0.40	0.40	-	-	-	-	-
<b>CARDCASE</b>									
Under 21	3.10	3.12	2.48	2.50	-	-	-	-	-
<b>MATURED FUNDS ACCOUNT*</b>									
£10,000+	3.70	-	2.96	3.70	-	3.70	-	2.96	-
£2,000+	3.10	-	2.48	3.10	-	3.10	-	2.48	-
<b>Monthly Income</b>									
£10,000+	3.64	-	2.91	3.64	-	3.64	-	2.91	-
£2,000+	3.06	-	2.45	3.06	-	3.06	-	2.45	-
<b>TREASURER'S ACCOUNT*</b>									
£2,500+	4.20	-	3.36	-	-	4.20	-	3.36	-
£500+	3.65	-	2.92	-	-	3.65	-	2.92	-
£50+	0.75	-	0.60	-	-	0.75	-	0.60	-
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Including maturity bonus	6.46	-	-	6.46	-	-	-	-	-
Deposit £500+	2.28	2.21	1.76	1.77	2.28	2.21	1.76	1.77	2.28
£50+	0.75	0.75	0.60	0.60	0.75	0.75	0.60	0.60	0.75
Monthly Savings £500+	2.20	2.21	1.76	1.77	2.20	2.21	1.76	1.77	2.20
£50+	0.75	0.75	0.60	0.60	0.75	0.75	0.60	0.60	0.75
7 Day Xtra £200+	1.65	1.66	1.32	1.33	1.65	1.66	1.32	1.33	1.65
Special Investment Account (1st Issue)	2.75	2.77	2.20	2.21	2.75	2.77	2.20	2.21	2.75
Special Investment Account (2nd Issue)	2.25	2.26	1.80	1.81	2.25	2.26	1.80	1.81	2.25
5 Year Term Share	2.60	2.62	2.08	2.09	2.60	2.62	2.08	2.09	2.60
Subscription Share	2.20	2.21	1.76	1.77	2.20	2.21	1.76	1.77	2.20
Managed Subscription Share	2.20	2.21	1.76	1.77	2.20	2.21	1.76	1.77	2.20

Trinity Road, Halifax



4th April 1996

صكنا من الاصل

## Mexico fury at US police beating of migrants

Christopher Reed in Los Angeles and Phil Gannon in Mexico City

THE California police beating of two Mexican illegal immigrants has thrown into confusion a right-wing drive to make aliens a political issue in this year's American elections.

The Mexican government's protest expressing "outrage at discriminatory attitudes" and "institutional violence" brought sympathy from President Bill Clinton, who has been assiduously courting the Golden State and its rich haul of votes. He expressed concern and ordered the FBI to investigate the case.

Some Republicans advise caution in exploiting the anti-immigration mood in California. They fear a backlash, with their supporters labelled as extremists and losing votes from immigrants who have become American citizens.

Others, including California's Governor Pete Wilson, are more aggressive. Many saw the film of nearly 20 illegal

Dole's campaign in his state, are determined to push on with immigration and positive discrimination as the issues to galvanise conservative voters.

The 15-second video of the two white officers beating a man and woman after a motorway chase over 70 miles, was shown on television in Mexico and across the world.

In Mexico City, politicians of all parties joined the government in calling for an end to "institutionalised violence against migrants and to the anti-immigrant climate" fostered by US politicians.

The foreign ministry said the "evident abuse of authority" revealed in this case confirms the urgent need to eradicate discriminatory attitudes, and called for a swift and just investigation.

In California, however, the beating was not regarded with uniform outrage. Many saw the film of nearly 20 illegal

immigrants leaving the truck as more evidence of what Pat Buchanan called the "alien invasion" of migrant workers in California.

It was pointed out that the truck was a potential death-trap. As it sped along up to 80mph, the camper top blew off exposing the people in the back. All could have been thrown out and injured or killed in an accident.

The beating, which reminded many of the 1991 assault by white police on black motorist Rodney King exposed the police again to charges of endemic racism.

The two Riverside county officers, now under paid suspension, have records of violence. One, Tracy Watson, was investigated last July for shooting a suspected car thief. He was cleared of improper behaviour.

His colleague Kurtis Franklin in the US is a highly sensitive issue in Mexico. In California, however, the beating was not regarded with uniform outrage. Many saw the film of nearly 20 illegal

## Taxing times for Cubans

The state wants a slice of the private-sector pie, reports Juanita Darling in Havana

FOR the first time in more than three decades, an unwelcome visitor has returned to Cuba: the tax collector. Most of the youthful Cuban population has never paid tax.

Cubans once considered the abolition of taxes after the triumphs of the revolution that brought Fidel Castro to power in 1959. Income taxes were eliminated almost immediately after the revolutionary leader's tanks rolled into Havana, and the last vestige of taxation — a payroll tax — was eliminated a few years later.

Viviana Togores, an economist, said Cuba was forced to reimpose taxes because of the success of family businesses, which were legalised two years ago. "One group of people was earning incomes far above the rest of the population, and the taxes are an attempt to attenuate the differences a little," she said.

"These people were not contributing to the federal budget, but they were benefiting from government services."

She said workers in state-owned companies use their profits to contribute to the federal budget. Government workers — about three-quarters of the labour force — still do not have to pay taxes.

Oswaldo Gutiérrez, aged 38, remembers well what taxes were like — he was an accountant until the revolution made his profession obsolete. Now he is a retired lawyer, whose family sells pastrty on the street in front of their apartment. And he well understands Ms Togores's arguments for taxes.

"Every country in the world has taxes," he said. "But it's only fair to tell us how much it is." Cubans say that the biggest source of confusion is that the government has begun imposing taxes, even

though congress has yet to pass the regulations that will be used to enforce a tax law approved last December. Rules for big companies and individuals who earn dollars are clear: companies pay a percentage of profits which varies according to industrial sector; individuals pay a graduated tax starting at \$2,400 (£1,500).

As most Cubans understand it, the tax law provides little incentive to invest because it is based on gross income, with no provision for the deduction of expenses.

"None of the family businesses have kept ledgers — not income or expenses or anything," Ms Togores says.

That is not entirely true. Mr Gutiérrez records his transactions in a neat two-column ledger, which he reviews closely to make sure that the family pastrty stand clears a profit. But without knowing what his taxes will be, he can no longer calculate his profit.

"Bring back the accountants," he said. — Los Angeles Times.

UN hunts  
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shoot my mum...



صحنه من الاله

Lack of Serbian co-operation blocks war crimes tribunal's pursuit of suspects

# UN hunts Bosnian mass graves

Julian Borger in Zagreb

**U**NITED NATIONS war crimes investigators began examining suspected mass grave sites in eastern Bosnia yesterday, in search of the remains of up to 8,000 Muslims missing since the Serb capture of Srebrenica last year.

A six-man team of forensic experts from the UN's war crimes tribunal based in The Hague set out under American military protection to mark and survey sites north and west of Srebrenica, a former UN "safe area", where most of the missing are thought to lie buried. Exhumation of the suspected graves is expected to begin within the next month.

The US 2nd Brigade based in nearby of Vlasenica has provided a team of about 100 men, eight armoured cars, artillery and attack helicopters, which will intervene if the forensic team comes under threat while working on Serb-held territory.

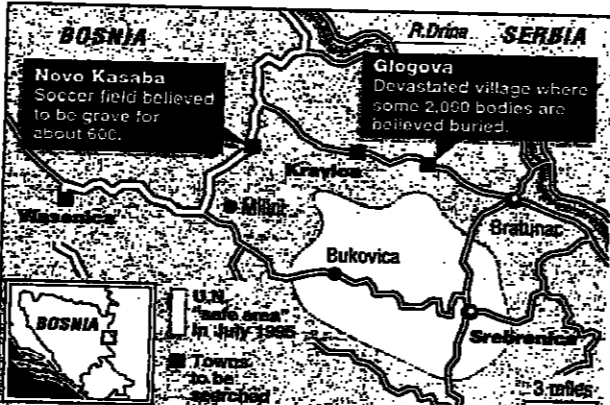
The provision of security

for war crimes investigators marks a significant new role for the Nato-led Implementation Force (I-For), whose commanders have been trying to resist the expansion of their peacekeeping mandate. It is believed the force agreed to the new responsibilities after pressure from the United States government.

Bosnian Serb forces overran the government-controlled enclave around Srebrenica in July 1995, sweeping aside Dutch UN troops who were supposed to help secure the safety of local Muslims in a UN-declared "safe area". Most of the women and children were bused to government territory but almost all the men were rounded up and few have been seen since.

Survivors have told investigators of mass executions and the use of bulldozers to bury thousands of bodies. Days after the fall of Srebrenica, US spy satellites photographed areas of freshly dug earth in six locations north and west of Srebrenica.

Several sites have been visited by journalists. In mid-



January near the village of Glogova, five miles north of Srebrenica, the Guardian and a group of American journalists found bones and decomposing body parts on two patches of raw mud.

The Bosnian Serb political and military leaders, Radovan Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic have been indicted by the Hague tribunal for their part in the Srebrenica massacre, but the 60,000-strong I-For force has so far

been reluctant to conduct a manhunt for them.

In an interview published yesterday in the Washington Post, the chairman of the US joint chiefs of staff, General John Shalikashvili, said he opposed snatch operations against war crimes suspects.

The Hague tribunal has five war crimes suspects in its custody. Three others have been arrested and are awaiting extradition elsewhere in Europe. Fifty indicted sus-

pects are at large — 44 of them Serbs.

The tribunal said it would report the government of rump Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to the UN Security Council within 10 days for its lack of co-operation in the pursuit of war criminals.

The Yugoslav authorities handed over two suspects on Saturday, but a tribunal judge blamed Belgrade for giving refuge to three military officers charged with orchestrating the massacre of 260 civilians in the Croatian town of Vukovar in November 1991.

The tribunal was due to hand over a Serb colonel to the Bosnian government last night after ruling on Friday that there was insufficient evidence to indict him. Christian Chartier, the tribunal spokesman, said Nato had refused a request to fly Colonel Aleksa Krstanovic back to Sarajevo for questioning on genocide charges.

Nato is only bound to assist the tribunal in cases involving indicted war crimes suspects. Mr Chartier said the tribunal was trying to arrange alternative transport.



Rooftop demonstration... France's prime minister, Alain Juppé, descends from the roof of a Paris building after seeing how air-pollution monitors operate. The French cabinet yesterday approved a bill which seeks to control smog levels. PHOTOGRAPH MICHEL LIPONZ

## World news in brief

### Iraq makes fast buck with 'cancelled' 100-dollar bills

**I**RAQ has seized on the introduction of new 100-dollar notes in the United States to boost its embattled economy. A headline in the state-run al-Jumhuriya newspaper announced: "America cancels 100-dollar bill", spreading panic among Iraqis who rely on dollars as protection against hyperinflation. Old dollars are still valid, but in a rigidly controlled country where the govern-

ment dictates the flow of information, the campaign was a huge success.

Iraqis rushed to exchange dollars for previously shunned Iraqi dinars, providing Saddam Hussein's government with an infusion of tens of millions of dollars, diplomats in Baghdad estimated.

The dinar, which hit a record low of 3,000 to the dollar in December, has surged to about 700. — AP.

### Oliver North's vests go public

**O**LIVER NORTH, the former United States marine colonel who made his reputation through covert operations, is going public. A bulletproof vest manufacturer co-founded by Lt Col North in 1989, will offer shares to the public in 1997, according to a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Col North, who unsuccessfully ran for a US Senate seat in Virginia in 1994 and now reaches thousands of listeners as a talk-show host, stands to get a rise if the initial public offering goes as planned.

The Guardian Technologies International Inc in Virginia sells protective vests through police and government contracts and has more than 850 customers. — Washington Post.

### Cult disciples 'murdered'

**T**HE Swiss judge leading the inquiry into the deaths in 1994 of 54 members of the Order of the Solar Temple cult said yesterday that all but 15 of the victims had, in effect, been murdered.

André Pillar, an examining magistrate, also said there was no evidence that any killer or witness had survived the killings in two Swiss villages and a ski resort in Quebec, Canada.

Mr Pillar told journalists that, in his opinion, the main instigator was the head of the cult, Joseph di Mambro, who was in an advanced state of paranoia when he ordered the "transit" of followers.

Mr Pillar said Luc Jouret, a Belgian homeopathic doctor who acted as the cult's guru but was clearly under Di Mambro's control, had also been involved. — Reuter.

### Briton is shot dead in Angola

A British aid worker, Chris Seward, aged 46, was one of three aid workers killed by gunmen in an ambush on an Angolan road that had been declared safe by the United Nations.

They were travelling in a UN vehicle on the road from Benguela to Cubal when the gunmen struck. — Reuter.

### Chechens fight on

Chechen villagers fled air strikes yesterday as rebel leaders poured scorn on President Boris Yeltsin's peace initiative and vowed to fight to the last man. — Reuter.

### Voortrekkers

White South African farmers are set to move to new homes in Mozambique in a 1990s version of the 19th century Great Trek. — Reuter.

### Threat to plant

The US defence secretary, William Perry, said yesterday

that the United States would not rule out military action to stop Libya producing chemical weapons at a new underground site. — Reuter.

### Hostages freed

Inmates at a top-security prison in Aparecida de Goiânia, Brazil, released 10 of their 18 hostages yesterday and will receive more than \$63,000, cars and weapons for their getaway. The 43 inmates said they would release two other hostages as authorities deliver the guns and getaway cars. — AP.

### Clocking up

The United States will change from Standard Time to Daylight Time on Sunday. Clocks will move forward one hour. — AP.

### Resignation blow

Two Indian government ministers, P. Chidambaram (commerce) and M. Arunachalam (industry), resigned yesterday, dealing a blow to the Congress Party before the general elections. — Reuter.

### Strike leaves minister footsore

**A** GERMAN cabinet minister had to ford a river on foot and walk several miles in a cold rain to avoid violent protests by striking Bolivian transport workers.

Carl-Dieter Spranger, Germany's minister for economic co-operation and

development, and about 20 journalists were returning on Tuesday night from a visit to Lake Titicaca when police made them take a detour to the airport. Officers said protesters were throwing rocks and blocking the main route. — AP.

**When they came and said I was to marry Iqbal, I told them it was not my age to be married. They got the gun out and said they were going to shoot my mum if I didn't do it.**

G2 page 4

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Diary

Mathew Norman

LETTER arrives from Riskey Prison, where Andrea Needham and Joanne Wilson are on trial following an incident in January in which they damaged Hawk ground-attack aircraft. Concerned that the plot, bound for Indonesia, might be used against the people of East Timor, they created British Aerospace's "high security" site at Warton, Lancashire, were caught, and disarmed it with simple household tools; they are charged with causing £200,000 worth of damage, but the real figure may be more than £2 million. Since the incident in January, British Aerospace has had an extra 170 security guards, and Andrea and Joanne are keen to point out an impressive irony. The company so richly benefiting from their presence is the same company in whose name a guard was arrested last year and charged with kidnapping the very same women. When the Diary wrote about this incident, a Group 4 (who else?) press officer rang to protest, saying the firm is vastly improved. It seems he was right. Group 4 hasn't had a single plane nicked yet.

Westminster, while the politicians enjoy their Easter break (Ann Widdecombe's off to Corfu again, apparently, on another of her Club 18-50 deputes jaunts), work at Westminster goes on. The Deputy Assistant Secretary at Arms has written to members advising them that TV engineers will be adapting their sets, enabling them to pick up four new channels. Sky News and CNN are two... but what are these channels? Sky Sports? How odd, just a few weeks after Parliament acted to stop Mr Murdoch snaffling the events for those very channels. No official explanation has been offered yet, but rumour suggests the decision has been made as a result of a National Heritage misunderstanding involving Kelvin McKenzie's cable channel, Live TV. "It's all Mrs Bottomley's doing," says my anonymous source. "She thought Lunchbox Volleyball was on Sky Sports 2."

MEANWHILE, I am reluctantly forced to press on my so-called rival at the Telegraph to Virginia's husband Peter, the excitable MP for Eltham. Mrs Bolmondely, the paper's diarist reports, has been attending Whitehall meetings wearing a badge of Jas from Babylon Zoo. Where do they get these ridiculous confessions? Bolmondely must swing into action at once.

THE phone rings. It is Terry Major-Ball. "I'm a bit tired, actually," says Terry. "I didn't get home until 11. I was at Peter's. You know, Peter Stringfellow's." It was his second visit to the club in a week. "I'm a little gadd about, aren't I?" he says, but on this note his tone becomes more serious. The Daily Express has published a story suggesting that Michael Howard has offered to employ Terry as a doorman at Harrods. "I think someone's having a giggle at my expense," he says. "There was talk a while ago about having lunch with Mr Al Fayed, but I didn't want it. With that, shall we say, certain divergence in opinion about his citizenship. I didn't think it would be in anyone's best interests." Terry thinks the joke might have been a snide comment on his writing skills, but I assure him otherwise; indeed, his book Major Major (published shortly in paperback) will soon become Book of the Month. So who, I wonder, could have planted such a senseless piece of nonsense? "I couldn't comment," he says darkly. "but someone's been a little bit naughty."

POLICE in Canada are celebrating an outstanding piece of detective work, after three burglars were tracked down in the town of St Laurent. The three men broke into a motel and stole a safe containing \$1,000. Unfortunately, the money was in loose change. Even more unfortunately, the safe had a hole in its bottom. Having followed the trail for two miles, police found the men slumped in a garage, too exhausted to move.



Surfing a European supercul-de-sac

Commentary Hugo Young

KENNETH Clarke is a brave and forthright fellow. He has an opinion about Britain's future in Europe and, because he saw this being elected every month by the Conservative Party, took a stand against promising a referendum on the single currency. Yesterday, he came out blustering, and the Euro-phobes, true to the blackmailers' tradition, said the referendum they'd been demanding was a great disappointment. This did its bit to spin the story Clarke's way. But nothing diminishes the magnitude of his defeat in anything but the shortest term. His case was that Britain must remain free, if and when interest demanded, to enter a European economic and monetary union. And he's got a promise that the Tories won't formally refuse to try. But the decision yesterday

makes it less likely, no matter the cost of remaining outside, that a Conservative government will ever exercise the option. That isn't because a referendum would reach a negative verdict. On the contrary, a referendum would probably say Yes. It would have been preceded, after all, by a government decision, a parliamentary decision and, almost certainly, opposition assent, together with mobilisation of the entire establishment in favour of what had been decided. So the people won't get in the way. It will be, instead, the politicians. Under the guise of populist consultation, what is being confirmed is the veto of the politicians. In short, a Conservative government has made it almost impossible for itself to reach a referendum at all. Reach forward, if you will, into the real world which Mr Major, brokering his way through the many abstract hypotheses that underlie this deal, invites us to consider. He has won the election. EMU beckons. He would quite like to take something in Britain will otherwise lose. But there is the further little problem of the Cabinet, confined yesterday under an obligation to maintain its collective solidarity. Not for Mr Major a repeat of the Labour experi-

be excused for seeing the greater wisdom in not putting it to the test. Being a leader who puts the maintenance of party unity above all things, what is there for him in promoting a policy to which, in any case, there are plenty of easy objections that will tend to push the longer-term interest comfortably over the horizon? Why should he take a decision that's certain to split the Cabinet, whether before or after half its members have resigned, in circumstances that leave no hiding-place for the myth of collective agreement?

Some may regard this analysis as placing too much weight on the principled commitment of the ministers in question. By the time we're talking about, maybe, they will genuinely have seen the merits of EMU. And after all, only one minister left the Cabinet to pick up the gauntlet. Major threw down when he put his leadership on the line last summer. Ambition rather than fear limits in modern politics. Yet ambition need not, in fact, be put to the question. I believe the certainty of division, and the potential for departures, will act as a major constraint against the case, however strong it becomes on economic grounds, for pressing on to EMU. The threat of resignation did not work for Kenneth Clarke, because he never meant to resign. It will work for his enemies to move deterrent effect.

ONE mustn't forget, of course, the deep realm of academic speculation. They are unlikely to have to be verified, because the Conservatives are unlikely to win the election. The referendum pledge does nothing to alter

Cross the t's, dot the i's, pocket the exes



Roy Greenslade

THIS with obvious glee that newspapers have seized upon the downfall of Peter Robinson, the Woolwich chief executive who resigned amid allegations of "discrepancies" in his expense account. For if there is one subject journalists know all about, it's expenses. And discrepancies. It brought to mind the embarrassment of the BBC's director-general, John Birt, who was found three years ago to have been a little economical with the truth over the tax deductibility of his Armani suits and his secretary.

he thought was a name on a doorway and claimed for a meal with a Domingo Albert. Unfortunately, his news editor understood Spanish: "You pillock, it means open on Sundays." Using famous names is always a bad idea. A features editor once discovered that three of his writers were claiming to have taken the actress Bo Derek to lunch at different restaurants on the same day. He gave them a routine dressing down and then ordered them to sort it out among themselves. The writer who won the toss later regretted it; the editor had genuinely been entertaining Ms Derek that day. Expenses are a polite fiction. Officially, you are supposed to be "reimbursed for legitimate expenses incurred in the course of your work". Unofficially, exes are extra wages.



An unwise path

On this page last year Lord Donaldson warned that Michael Howard's continued interference with the judiciary could lead to despotic government. Here he argues that yesterday's proposals would force judges to hand down unjust sentences

SENTENCING policy, and indeed all penal policy, should have four objectives. First, retribution or the just punishment of the offender for what he did in the circumstances in which he did it. Second, the protection of the public, the deterrence of offenders who might be tempted to commit similar offences. Fourth, the rehabilitation of the offender.

These objectives are clear and would, I think, achieve universal acceptance. They have nothing to do with the election of particular politicians or particular parties. Justice and political ambition are the most inappropriate of bedfellows. And they are not furthered by soundbites such as "if you don't want the time, don't do the crime".

Whilst these objectives are clear, their achievement is fraught with difficulty. It might be thought that every offender would fall into one of three distinct categories. There would be "the bad" who would deserve and

receive condign punishment. There would be "the mad" who would deserve and receive treatment. And there would be "the sad", the inadequate in our society who yield to pressures that others would resist. They would deserve and receive help and support in one form or another. Also the reality is different. Most offenders fall into more than one category. Deciding upon what is the appropriate sentence is a skill only to be acquired by experience and training based upon detailed research. There are no simple answers. Some mistakes are inevitable. That is why we have a system of appeals which enables sentences to be corrected both by increases and decreases.

sentence. It is no answer to this objection to point out that the judge's discretion is already limited where there is a minimum sentence. It is one thing to be required to be lenient. It is quite another to be required to be unjust.

In response to protests, the Government now proposes that judges should be allowed to pass lesser sentences in exceptional circumstances. However, the White Paper makes it clear that a case is not exceptional merely because the judge is satisfied that in all the circumstances the mandatory determinate sentence is unjust, and there will be no exception in the case of life sentences. If, which is by no means clear, the general level of sentences for these offences is too low, the remedy lies in the Lord Chief Justice and the Court of Appeal giving guidance.

The third proposal is that anyone committing a second offence of rape or serious violence shall receive a mandatory life sentence. In flat contradiction of the proposals for honesty in sentencing, this would not mean being imprisoned for life. It would mean that he remained in prison for a period fixed by the judge and would thereafter be released only if and when the Parole Board considered that he would not, however, remain liable to recall to prison at any time without being further convicted or sentenced.

This proposal is intended to meet a real problem - the fear that such offenders may be released only to strike again. But it is not the right solution. Instead Parliament should empower judges to pass a new sentence of "x years to life". The offender would remain in prison for at least x years, and would only be released if and when an appropriate court, rather than the Parole Board, was satisfied that he was no longer a risk to the public, and once so released he should be a free man.

Such a sentence would be honest. It would mean what the judge said. It would also leave the future freedom of the offender in the hands of the judiciary where it belongs, and where the European Convention on Human Rights expects it to be. This is not to disparage the Parole Board, for which I have great respect, but it is not a judicial body. Furthermore, it would be the fabric of our society, and any proposal for change needs to be carefully researched and take full account of the professional views of all concerned. This has certainly not happened on this occasion. Indeed, the core proposals for mandatory minimum and life sentences are contrary to most professional advice.

The final decision will not be for the Government, but for Parliament. It is to be hoped that there will be second and wiser thoughts.

much of the most exorbitant profiteering - which managements have stopped in the past couple of years - stemmed from the flagrant abuse of the system under which money was handed out in advance. At Mirror Group's old building in Holborn, the cashiers' department on the ninth floor was known as the bank in the sky. One Christmas it ran out of cash because so many journalists arrived with advances slips. But the real mischief began when it came time to justify the lunches with friends and the nights of drinking. Fictional lunches with celebrities and "contacts" suddenly appeared on expense forms.

The first rule in a restaurant or bar was to request "blanks", a wad of empty receipts which could be filled in later as required. Naturally, reporters strapped blanks from different restaurants. When the blanks ran out, it was possible to innovate. One Sun journalist who received an obscure newspaper from Peking every week would cut out the masthead, type on the required amount and submit it as if from a Chinese restaurant.

When I was at the Sunday Mirror, an executive of unimpeachable honesty told me how he found himself with four restaurant bills for talking out various journalistic chums. Bored one afternoon, he used the French Revolution as his theme for investigating names. His £200 claim for meals with Jack O'Blim, Mr D Anton, Peter Robe and Sidney Carton sailed through.

Inventions can go wrong. A young Express reporter sent to Spain recently noted what

Foreign trips are the fiddlers' joy. I once overheard a photographer in a pub explaining to his picture editor that he was having a bit of trouble raising his alimony. "Any chance of a foreigner? It's the only way I can afford to pay her this month."

The recognised experts are the royal-watchers who have long been cavalier exponents of espionage. One story tells of a photographer's hot breaking down at the Cowes royal regatta so that he had to be towed into port. On his expense sheet he wrote: "Money for old rope: £150." Though apocryphal, it conveys the culture.

One of the best-known scams is the hiring of boats, cars and planes when abroad. Four journalists negotiate a deal for, say, £300 in total and then obtain four separate bills for £300 each. Who will ever know?

A SUN reporter angry at cuts in his exes found a perfect way to obtain the desired amount. He would fill in his claim for a huge sum and, in another pen, would cut items in the style of the news editor. Then, taking a different pen, he would cut still more in the style of the managing editor. Having forged their well-known signatures, he sent the forms straight to cashiers. "Worked like a dream," he boasted. "Sometimes I was upset, though. I'd think I'd been too savage on myself."

But times have changed. An Express executive was fired some months ago for "amending" restaurant bills that he considered unduly modest. He was outraged when he heard that an infrared detector had shown up the difference in inks. "You've got to admit," he said later, "that's not playing fair, is it?"

Roy Greenslade has scrupulously filled in expense forms as assistant editor of the Sun, managing editor of the Sunday Times, and editor of the Daily Mirror.

If you think Britain belongs at the heart of Europe - not on the edge - now's the time to do something positive about it. Register your support by joining the European Movement, a campaigning group with members right across the political spectrum. If you think Britain's peace and prosperity depend on playing a full part in Europe, complete the form and help us to help the country make the right choice. \* \* \* \* \* I want to join the European Movement. Please send me a membership pack. Full Name: Address: Telephone: Annual subscription rates: NO STAMP REQUIRED Individual member £20 Senior Citizen £7 Young (25 or under) £5 Unwaged £3 I enclose a cheque made payable to the European Movement. European Movement United Kingdom RETURN THIS FORM TO THE EUROPEAN MOVEMENT FREEPOST LONDON SW1W 9RT OR TELEPHONE 0181 938 3900. ACCESS AND VISA ACCEPTED.







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# Finance Guardian

## Northern Rock seeks listing • Woolwich exposed to predators by chief's departure



Writing on the wall... Northern Rock chairman Robert Dickinson announces its intention of seeking a Stock Exchange listing yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK MARTIN

# Societies face bid pressure

Cliff Jones

**B**ID speculation yesterday engulfed the building society sector. City sources warned that both the Woolwich and Northern Rock were vulnerable to hostile bids.

The sudden departure of Peter Robinson, chief executive of the Woolwich, has exposed the society to predators ahead of its proposed flotation. Northern Rock may face a bid battle after its announcement yesterday that it will seek a market listing.

Any bidders would need to act before the societies float as they are protected from takeover for five years after converting to plc status. Tim Clarke, banking analyst at Parure Gordon, said the Woolwich "must be vulnerable to takeover after Robinson's departure".

John Tyce, banking analyst at Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, said he did not believe that Northern Rock was "big enough" to survive, although Rob Thomas, building societies analyst at investment bank UBS, said: "Northern Rock stands a fighting chance until the flotation vote next year, after which it will be protected."

Northern Rock could be

open to offers from BAT, which owns Eagle Star and Allied Dunbar, or banks such as Midland and Abbey National. NatWest, which is believed to have an interest, said yesterday: "It is our strategy to consider expansion into the long-term savings and mortgage sector."

Foreign banks are also in the frame, but the society says it has not yet received any bids. Both the Woolwich and Northern Rock have stressed their intention to remain independent until the flotations.

Northern Rock's decision is being seen as a body blow for mutuality because of its position as a regional society, a sector traditionally seen as the least likely to convert. It

is also the first medium-sized mutual to announce a flotation following similar announcements from major players such as Abbey National, Alliance & Leicester, Halifax and Woolwich.

Mr Thomas, of UBS, said: "The thinking now is that the mutual sector is basically finished." He described Northern Rock's decision as "a very

serious blow to the sector". Mr Thomas emphasised that other societies were likely to come under increasing pressure from members to float, and are now sitting ducks for takeover bids.

Northern Rock's decision could trigger a second wave of mergers by second tier societies. Bristol & West, like Northern Rock, has said it is

reviewing its options. So has Birmingham Midshires. Societies still remaining committed to mutuality include Nationwide, Bradford & Bingley, Coventry, Yorkshire and Britannia. They have affirmed their positions by introducing loyalty schemes which pass on bonuses to their members through lower mortgage rates and increased savings rates.

Ken Culley, chairman of the Building Societies Association, said yesterday's announcement signalled a "sad day for mutuality". Mr Cullley, chief executive of the Portman Building Society, rejected any notion that societies were an endangered species. He said: "The industry is still alive and well, we still have a £130 billion mortgage book and as much in savings. We offer the most competitive products."

John Wriglesworth, head of communications and strategy at Bradford & Bingley, did not understand Northern Rock's move.

"Why should we subject ourselves to higher costs by floating and paying out a windfall?" he said. "Mutual benefits are for life, not just for Christmas, and it is sad to see the Northern Rock go."

The Woolwich, £2 cover

### Notebook

## Mutuals nearly an exclusive club



Edited by Alex Brummer

**A**FTER the dash of the behemoths of the mutual sector towards conversion, the departure of one medium-ranking building society — the Northern Rock — might appear an unremarkable event. More likely, however, it is a defining moment for the mutual home loans and insurance sector.

For building societies to remain a credible force in financial services the sector had to hold its centre. With almost two-thirds of the sector's assets having taken — or set to take — the bank/plc route, the hope for the rump was that a combination of loyalty bonuses and ingenuity would leave them as viable, free-standing institutions.

This certainly had been the intention of societies, such as the Bradford & Bingley, which have plighted their troth to the mutual movement.

The Northern Rock's decision changes that. Speculation has immediately shifted to similarly ranking societies such as the Bristol & West, Birmingham Midshires and even the Nationwide seeking conversion or becoming — like the Woolwich — a takeover target.

If only half of this list decided that conversion/plc status was the only way forward then the building society movement, as we have known it, would become a small rump of local regional societies marginalised in a world of financial giants.

The mutual insurance companies, like the Clerical & Medical, may have good reasons for wanting bigger partners because of the difficulty of replenishing their capital. But that has never been a problem for the mutual lenders. They have been sacrificed as a result of the Government's dilatory approach to deregulating the operating regime.

There are still strong voices like the Co-operative Bank and the Scottish Life (in its 1985 annual report) convinced that the mutual structure best serves all stakeholders. Now that the Woolwich has shot itself in the foot, even that may be a harder case to make.

### Whose bargain?

**S**IEBE's bid for Unitech was telegraphed to the stock market last month when it bought a 23 per cent stake from the Swiss company, Electrowatt. What was less obvious was how much Siebe would be prepared to pay.

Certainly there was always going to have to be a premium for control and, in the event, rather a handsome one. The paper terms value Unitech shares at 715p, 38 per cent above their price ahead of

Siebe's acquisition of Electrowatt's 25 per cent holding and £1.25 above the 690p that paid to the Swiss company itself.

That is not to say that Siebe has overpaid. In the long run, the acquisition of Unitech looks a good fit. Siebe, one of the most successful of Britain's engineering companies, owes a large part of that success to overseas acquisitions — the £1 billion purchase of Foxboro in the US in 1990 being an example. Unitech will bring a more than useful *entrée* into Far Eastern markets in the shape of its 50.6 per cent stake in Nemic Lambda, while the electronic power controls operations should dovetail neatly.

In the shorter term, to the stock market's reaction — to mark down the bidder's shares while giving those of the bid target a leg up — might be seen as a nod towards Unitech's getting the better of the bargaining. It is, however, rather more likely to reflect investors' calculations that buying Unitech and selling Siebe is the most cost effective way into the combined group.

### Job's worth

**T**HERE are two ways of looking at Britain's hidden economy. The first is to put all the tax-dodging, counterfeiting and bootlegging that has been detailed in these pages all week down to a basic human failing: dishonesty.

The other way suggests that the real problem is not wickedness but a failure of the economy, inherent defects in the labour markets and the tax and benefit system that actively encourage people to evade the clutches of the taxman.

In truth, there is probably something in both explanations. The ease with which the super-rich can use all sorts of *whizzes* to minimise their tax liabilities has bred a "why not me, too" among the rest of us. If a company director can use an offshore tax haven why shouldn't the rest of us pay the builder cash for doing our extension?

But there is little doubt that the collapse in demand for unskilled jobs and the fact that anybody living on benefits is hammered mercilessly by the taxman once they get a job means that a huge army of potential shadow workers now exists.

There are two things that should be done. First, the Government should focus even more of its tax enforcement effort on the big fish rather than the minnows. Inland Revenue figures show that every £1 spent tackling evasion among poor people yields £3, but every £1 spent on the big corporations yields £10.

Second, the tax and benefit system should be revamped to ensure that those finding work end up with more than a few extra pence at the end of the week. The money from clamping down on the rich should be used to pay for this scheme, with any money left over going to create work for the unskilled through public programmes.

## Go-ahead given for new NHS hospital to be built privately

Sarah Ryle

**B**ITAIN'S first privately built NHS hospital was given the go-ahead by the Government yesterday under its Private Finance Initiative — but the £170 million venture came under immediate criticism.

The Norfolk and Norwich 2000 development — a project which will replace two existing hospitals — was hailed by ministers as "an exciting demonstration of the PFI at work".

Private sector involvement will bring the 701-bed hospital into operation five years earlier than if the Government had built it, they claimed. Health secretary Stephen Dorrell unveiled the East Anglian project along with plans for another privately-financed hospital, a £30 million rebuild of Princess Mar-

garet's in Swindon. Shadow health secretary Harriet Harman said the Government first promised the Norfolk hospital six years ago and the Swindon hospital was approved nearly three years ago, but the PFI process had delayed both schemes.

Neither project has reached the stage of completing contracts. There are fears about liability that have yet to be settled by a bill which has to go through Parliament.

But the Government included both hospitals in the headline figure of £4.8 billion of PFI projects agreed in 1995-96 against the target of £5 billion.

It also included the £3 billion Channel Tunnel rail link scheme announced last month — although £1.4 billion of that will be public money, not private finance, and the contract has not yet been signed.

### TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1.8925	France 7.44	Italy 2.243	Singapore 2.09
Austria 15.28	Germany 2.19	Malta 0.5375	South Africa 5.98
Belgium 44.80	Greece 359.00	Netherlands 2.4525	Spain 163.75
Canada 2.0180	Hong Kong 11.29	New Zealand 2.1750	Sweden 9.86
Cyprus 0.8975	India 51.75	Norway 9.55	Switzerland 1.9500
Denmark 6.48	Ireland 0.9425	Portugal 227.00	Turkey 99.9000
Finland 6.9670	Israel 4.78	Saudi Arabia 5.67	USA 1.49

Supplied by NatWest Bank (including Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

## Siebe swoop for Unitech adds to eastern promise

Ian King

**S**IEBE, Britain's largest diversified engineering group, strengthened its position in the Far East yesterday with an agreed offer for Unitech, the electronic components-maker, valuing the group at £320 million.

Under the terms of the offer, Siebe — which already holds 26 per cent of Unitech — will pay an equivalent of 715p a share for the company.

Siebe has also offered a place on its board to Peter Curry, Unitech's founder and chairman, inviting him to manage the integration of Unitech's businesses with those of Siebe.

Mr Curry, who set up Unitech in 1982, also becomes a millionaire several times over as a result of the deal. His holding, under the terms of the deal, is valued at just over £14 million.

Announcing the offer, Siebe's chairman Barrie Stephens said Unitech was a "vibrant and successful" business which had captured a significant share of key markets, adding: "Unitech's international spread of sales will bring added strength to Siebe, particularly for the Far East. Their product lines will complement our electronic power controls business and enable us to open up in new markets."

Meanwhile, Mr Curry insisted that the deal would not result in any job losses at Unitech, adding that Siebe had given assurances over employment.

Unitech's main attraction to Siebe, according to City analysts, is its majority £273 million stake in Japanese power control systems manufacturer, Nemic Lambda KTC.

The stake in Nemic has made Unitech the world's biggest producer in the £10 billion power controls market, in which Siebe lies sixth, and will provide Siebe with a toehold in the potentially lucrative Chinese market in particular.

Nemic already has a production plant in Wuxi, Shanghai — an area known as China's "Silicon Valley" — where it makes components for China's booming telecoms market and has planned to double capacity by the end of the century.

One of the least known-about companies in the FTSE-100, Siebe owns over 125 businesses worldwide, producing a variety of electronic and mechanical products including breathing apparatus, automotive components and temperature control systems.

News of the deal sent Siebe shares down 23p to 874p, while Unitech shares finished 23p higher at 703p, still some way short of the offer price.

## SFA expels securities manager

Dan Atkinson

**A**SECOND senior manager of NatWest Securities, City offshoot of National Westminster Bank, insisted last night there was no link between the two incidents other than that both had been detected by NatWest's internal compliance machinery and notified to Securities and Futures Authority, the agency that polices stockbroking and futures trading.

The SFA said Mr Glazebrook had admitted that for eight months from April 1994 he had "deliberately mis-marked or caused to be mis-marked positions in seven securities so as to conceal

idental information. He has since been reinstated by NatWest.

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The SFA said Mr Glazebrook had admitted that for eight months from April 1994 he had "deliberately mis-marked or caused to be mis-marked positions in seven securities so as to conceal

losses". NatWest Securities said the losses — which affected only the bank and not its clients — were "minimal" in the context of overall trading activity. It added, with regard to Mr Nagloff's case, that "we do not see a link".

Mr Glazebrook's activities were picked up by NatWest internal checks and passed to the SFA in February 1995. Although he has been expelled from the managers' register, he remains on the register of those allowed to trade. He has been fined £7,500 with costs of £2,500.

In a separate case, Robert Nagloff, a broker, has been expelled from the register of traders. The SFA said he had

provided false information on a mortgage application and forged two letters of reference. He has been dismissed from his job.

His employer, whose name is being withheld on the grounds that it is unconnected with the wrongdoing, is thought to have been the supposed issuer of one of the mortgage references and to have been alerted to Mr Nagloff's misdemeanours when a mortgage lender checked the "reference" with the company.

According to the SFA, Mr Nagloff "has failed to comply with the criterion of honesty in [our]... fit and proper person test".

## Gettys snap up Hulton library

### Nicholas Bannister on the sale of UK's biggest photograph collection

**B**ITAIN'S biggest and best known photographic collection, which includes pictures by legendary photographers such as Bert Hardy and Robert Capa, has been sold to the Getty family for an undisclosed sum.

The deal came only hours after the computer multimillionaire Bill Gates captured the electronic rights to the works of Ansel Adams, the world's leading fine-art photographer.

It had bought the Hulton Deutsch Collection from Brian Deutsch. Last year it acquired London-based Tony Stone Images, one of the world's top five non-news photo libraries.

The Hulton Deutsch collection contains more than 10 million photographs from the 19th century to the present day and about 350,000 prints and engravings going back to the 16th century. Most have a British or European bias.

the founder of the Picture Post magazine, who wanted to create "a library of all pictorial subjects". It includes the Picture Post and Keystone Press Agency libraries as well as the works of many leading photographers.

The collection was acquired in 1986 by the BBC which later sold it to Mr Deutsch and his partners for £1 million in 1988. Simon Thornley, the collection's managing director, said that Getty Communications had paid substantially more than £1 million.

Getty Communications was set up in 1995 by Mark Getty — grandson of the US oil magnate John Paul

Getty and son of the UK-based philanthropist John Paul Getty II — and Jonathan Klein. It is owned by Getty family interests, together with RIT Capital Partners and the Hambro Group.

Pictures in the Hulton Deutsch collection are widely used in newspapers, magazines, books and advertisements. The Tony Stone pictures are mainly used by advertising and design companies.

Mr Thornley said the deal would accelerate Hulton Deutsch's moves into the global electronic media. About 80,000 images had already been scanned into computers.



Beer group poised to resume top spot in UK with £300m deal for Carlsberg-Tetley

# Bass may be head brewer again

Roger Cowe

**B**REWING group Bass is poised to gain control of Carlsberg-Tetley in a £300 million-plus deal that would recapture its customary top spot in the UK industry last year when Scottish & Newcastle combined with Courage.

Bass is thought to have been reassured in discussions with the Office of Fair Trading that it would be allowed to go ahead with only minor brand disposals. The company is also believed to have cleared an important hurdle in lengthy negotiations with Carlsberg-Tetley's owners, Allied Domecq and Carlsberg. None of the main players would comment yesterday, as talks continue to be delicately poised. Whitbread, long interested in boosting its brewing strength, is still not completely out of the frame, but Bass is the front runner. As one observer commented: "I would put Whitbread down at two and Bass at eight."

The complex talks are expected to continue for several weeks before any firm announcement can be made. Allied Domecq has never formally confirmed that its share of Carlsberg-Tetley is up for sale. But the drinks and retailing group is understood to have instructed bankers Goldman Sachs to find a buyer last autumn. Allied put its brewing interests into the joint venture with Carlsberg in 1993 as part of the industry consolidation which has attempted to deal with brewing overcapacity and the Government's Beer Orders, which have attacked the traditional tie between breweries and pubs. The joint

### The big four

	% beer market share
Scottish Courage	31
Bass	23
Carlsberg-Tetley	16
Whitbread	12
Others	18

venture was part of Allied's decision to concentrate on international spirits distribution and retailing. But Carlsberg-Tetley has struggled since the merger and last year profits slumped from £75 million to £47 million. The business suffers from a lack of strong brands and inefficient distribution.

A key issue in any sale has been the position of Carlsberg. The Danish company said yesterday that it had no intention of reducing its investment and is expected to retain a stake in the enlarged Bass brewing business. Carlsberg has been seen as a potential block on a merger with Whitbread — which has links with Heineken — or with Bass, whose Carling Black Label leads the English lager market and competes directly against Carlsberg. Analyst Dermot Carr of Nikko Securities said yesterday that Carlsberg could gain more from access to the Bass pub network than it might lose from competition in the

Allied estate. He also pointed out that a key issue in negotiations will be the continuing supply agreement to the Allied pub chain. The value of that agreement will determine the price to be paid for acquiring the breweries — the more valuable the supply agreement, the more Bass will be prepared to pay for Carlsberg-Tetley. Mr Carr said a further step in the industry's consolidation would not solve profitability problems at a stroke. "Growth in consumption is still in the supermarket sector. They are not going to accept higher prices just because there are fewer breweries", he said.

## Co-op Bank is proof that small is beautiful

### Outlook

Roger Cowe

**T**HE CO-OP Bank is an affront to the theory that size is all that matters. While the largest banks, building societies and insurance companies are falling over themselves to merge, the Co-op, with assets not much greater than the Portman or Coventry building societies, is stolidly ploughing its own, successful furrow.

ample, compared to the Co-op's £3 billion. Contrary to the theoretical economies of scale, however, the Co-op gains from being small. Financially it does not have the legacy of a huge, national branch overhead which the big banks stagger under, while on service, it is easier to maintain high quality in a smaller organisation. And on marketing, a small bank like the Co-op can more easily carve out a particular niche. The Co-op Bank has focused on ethics, promising a couple of years ago that it would follow a policy favoured by its existing customers. This has been given a big boost by the Scott report... "the best bit of publicity we have had in a long time", Mr Thomas said. The bank's promotional team swiftly inserted a promise on the bottom of statements, stressing that the bank would not do business with arms traders.

## Nike? That'll fake nicely



Drugs money makes fighting counterfeiting more dangerous. SARAH RYLE ends our series



Boot sale at Hayes in Middlesex yesterday. The Guardian's photographer was not made to feel welcome by some traders

**E**VEN school pupils, keen to supplement their incomes, are becoming swallowed up in the voracious multi-million pound market for fakes. At one Harrogate secondary school they were recruited to sell fake designer label clothes like Versace jeans and Ralph Lauren jackets, according to Mike Hill of North Yorkshire's trading standards special investigations unit. Mr Hill and colleagues elsewhere, as well as officials from companies making the real thing, are after the big guys behind the counterfeit trade, not gullible school pupils. The fear now is that serious drugs money is being laundered through the trade by gangs. And, as spring begins, they all know the market is going to expand dramatically and,

probably, uncontrollably. Easter brings a surge in car boot sales — no longer just a cosy exchange of unwanted goods to boost the income of church, club or school, but increasingly a lucrative bazaar for fakes ranging from designer clothes to videos of Hollywood blockbusters. Christine Ray, charged by her employers, Nike, with keeping track of the rising tide of fakes in Britain, believes the £3 million worth of fake Nike tee shirts seized last year was a fraction of the real loss. "The hauls of counterfeit goods are getting bigger and bigger."

Nike has joined forces with other large manufacturers, such as Adidas and Reebok, to form the Anti-counterfeiting Group. Spokesman Mike Roylance, based at Adidas in Manchester, said the under-

ground trade in labelled gear, plus other illegal copies of everything from CDs to car parts, was probably in the region of £400 million a year. And it could well be more. Adidas seized £1 million worth of products last year. "That is the tip of the iceberg," said Mr Roylance, "we believe we saw about 5 per cent of the real amount but it could be as little as 1 per cent. That works out at a huge sum of money."

According to the Institute of Trading Standards, which has only issued national figures for counterfeits seized since February 1994, trading standards departments in Britain seized fakes worth just £6,293,989 in 1994/95. The economic knock-on effects of this go way beyond the affected companies. There's the obvious cost in

lost VAT to Customs and Excise and in tax to the Inland Revenue. There is also the loss of tax from the workers who get paid cash-in-hand to produce the goods. "A lot of these factories have two workforces," said Mr Roylance. "There are people working normally during the day but then a cash-in-hand workforce comes on at night, the stuff is cleared away and the day team know nothing about it." The "shadow" workers often assume they are making the genuine article. Manchester trading standards officer John Atkins is just one official hacking away at the iceberg. He said: "We have carried out three or four big raids in the last three years. They have all started with information either from the companies' own investiga-

### News in brief

## Belfast yard to build world's biggest rig

THE world's largest floating oil rig is to be built by the Harland and Wolff shipyard in Belfast, it was announced yesterday. BP Exploration has placed the order for the £400 million generation vessel for which Harland and Wolff will build the hull in a contract worth around £70 million. The rig, to be moored 120 miles off the Shetlands in water up to 1,500 feet deep, will have a storage capacity of 960,000 barrels of oil and the ability to process 140,000 barrels a day. The contract will safeguard 1,400 jobs at a yard which last year made a pre-tax operating loss of £16.9 million. — David Sharrock

## £2.5bn loss at Daimler-Benz

DAIMLER-BENZ, Germany's largest corporation, yesterday said it would pay no 1995 dividend after posting a DM5.7 billion (£2.52 billion) loss — the largest in post-war German history. The bulk of the losses (DM5.9 billion) stemmed from charges for AEG, now being broken up, and Folkner, the bankrupt Dutch plane-maker in which it held a majority stake. Jürgen Schrenpp, Daimler's chairman, pursuing a new strategy of promoting "shareholder value", said in advance of next month's annual meeting that the company expected to move back into substantial profit this year after a "tour de force" in the second half of 1996. — David Gow

## Merger scars United

UNITED News & Media, which owns Express Newspapers and is merging with media and broking group MAL, yesterday showed the scars of higher newspaper costs and the Daily Express's falling circulation, announcing a fall in full year pre-tax profits from £138 million to £104 million. United, which is integrating its head office operations with those of MAL, warned that paper prices — which deflated profits to the tune of £17 million last year — would also hit profits during the current year. — Ian King

## Taxpayers facing fines

ONE in five taxpayers facing self-assessment in the tax year which starts this Saturday is likely to face punitive fines if the introduction of the new regime follows the results of a year-long trial in Leicestershire. According to the Inland Revenue, more than 20 per cent of the 5,000 volunteers who took part in the trial failed to file the new-style Income Tax return before the penalty date. The Revenue has begun another trial in Southampton during which it hopes it can iron out the problem of non-compliance. — Ian Wylie

### Underside

Dan Atkinson

**C**YNICS suggest the use of Bernard Herrmann's music from the 1959 thriller *North by Northwest* in the Railtrack adverts may be a coded warning to those planning a punt on the permanent way. OK, so Cary Grant is kidnapped and nearly murdered, but his rail journey takes place aboard a "20th Century"-style super-express complete with club car and sleeping compartments. And he didn't even have a ticket. Roll on Private Rail! Dry Martinis all round!

of more than one third in the number of personnel jobs advertised during the past year.

NOT very gallant of France's Channel 3 to run in full on Monday night an interview at the



Little jobs summit during which Britain's employment secretary Gillian Shephard's game attempt to answer in the Gallic lingo dried up after a minute or so. The French boudiers even sub-titled Mrs S's collapse into English.

IN THE 80s it was opera, then came football. Now the top men of world finance are adjusting their binoculars for the new big one — bird-watching. In the best monetary circles, talk is of the little chaps who make a racket in the morning and eat bacon rind. Sir Brian Urwin, head of the European Investment Bank, is a keen ornithologist, as Kenneth Clarke, a little bird tells us that Alexandre Lamfalussy, chief of the European Monetary Institute, is another, indeed, Mr Lamfalussy is reported

to want to have a Euro-bird design placed on every single-currency banknote.

AST is a company of the 1990s. An Mod contractor, AST is "joint national winner" of "the inaugural Business Link 'Making the Difference' strategic planning awards". That's AST. Then there's AST, another company of the 1990s. Run by a convicted forger, AST — a training firm — bought a load of the Government's SkillCentres and ran them for 18 months, taking state-funded contracts, until it collapsed a year ago. Now DTI investigators are probing. You will not be surprised to hear AST (the first) is miffed at the publicity surrounding AST (the second). A case for the Registrar of Companies, perhaps.

AST week's high praise for Nicholas Soames's courageous attack on a fillet steak in a London restaurant may have been misplaced. A source from deep-seated WII informs us the eatery in question is renowned for using only US or Argentinian beef. Did the defence minister know? If so, was he aware onlookers would believe him to be braving British beef? Were he aware, should he have disclosed the facts to the public? Does anyone have Lord Nolan's mobile number?

IN THE state-the-bleeding-obvious tradition of the Great Monopolies and Mergers Commission (Cm. Lolly Investigation of 1993-1994 — the MMC brains trust "discovered" sales rose sharply in the summer — comes Tuesday's groundbreaking statement from

the Office of Fair Trading: "A guide to betting on horse racing did not live up to the promise made for it." No, really. It didn't, despite boasting the super-sober title — Money and How to Make it the Easy Way. Of the OFT's two grizzles, the first — that a cash-back guarantee was misleading — seems reasonable, but the second — that Easy is "written in the style of a fictitious autobiography" — takes the OFT into deep waters. "Mailshots written in the name of James Alexander gave the impression he existed". No doubt the OFT is now pursuing *The Life and Strange Surprising Adventures of Robinson Crusoe of York, mariner*. Anyway, who is the OFT to say James Alexander doesn't exist? What is existence? Does anyone have Aristotle's mobile number?

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		APR*	Total amount payable		APR*	Total amount payable
The Royal Bank of Scotland plc	16.9%	£112.79	£5,413.92	13.8%	£188.07	£9,027.36
	19.9%	£118.10	£5,668.80	19.9%	£206.68	£9,920.64
	18.9%	£116.33	£5,583.84	15.9%	£193.31	£9,278.88
Hamilton Direct Bank	18.7%	£116.00	£5,568.00	17.5%	£199.32	£9,567.36

\*Rates are correct as at 01/04/96. The rates quoted are for new customers. Existing customers may be eligible for a different rate.

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صوتنا من الاعمال







Soccer

Premiership: Leeds United 1, Southampton 0

Deane puts Saints in the doldrums

Cynthia Bateman

THE essence of the current state of both these sides was captured when a man...

cluded two 17-year-olds. Kewell at right back, and Blunt, having his first start...

Both proved worthy of the selection, Kewell, in particular, breaking up a move in which a rare glimpse of the old Le Tissier tango gave...

Dave Merrington, the Southampton manager, had asked his not-quite-doomed relegation strugglers to die for their shirts...

Indeed Leeds had almost all the possession but seemed totally unaware of what to do with it...

Thus led from the back, Southampton at last located the Leeds penalty area. Le Tissier, back after suspension, hit a low shot straight at Lukic...

was taken off with concussion last Saturday, looked in danger of a similar mind-numbing experience through boredom...

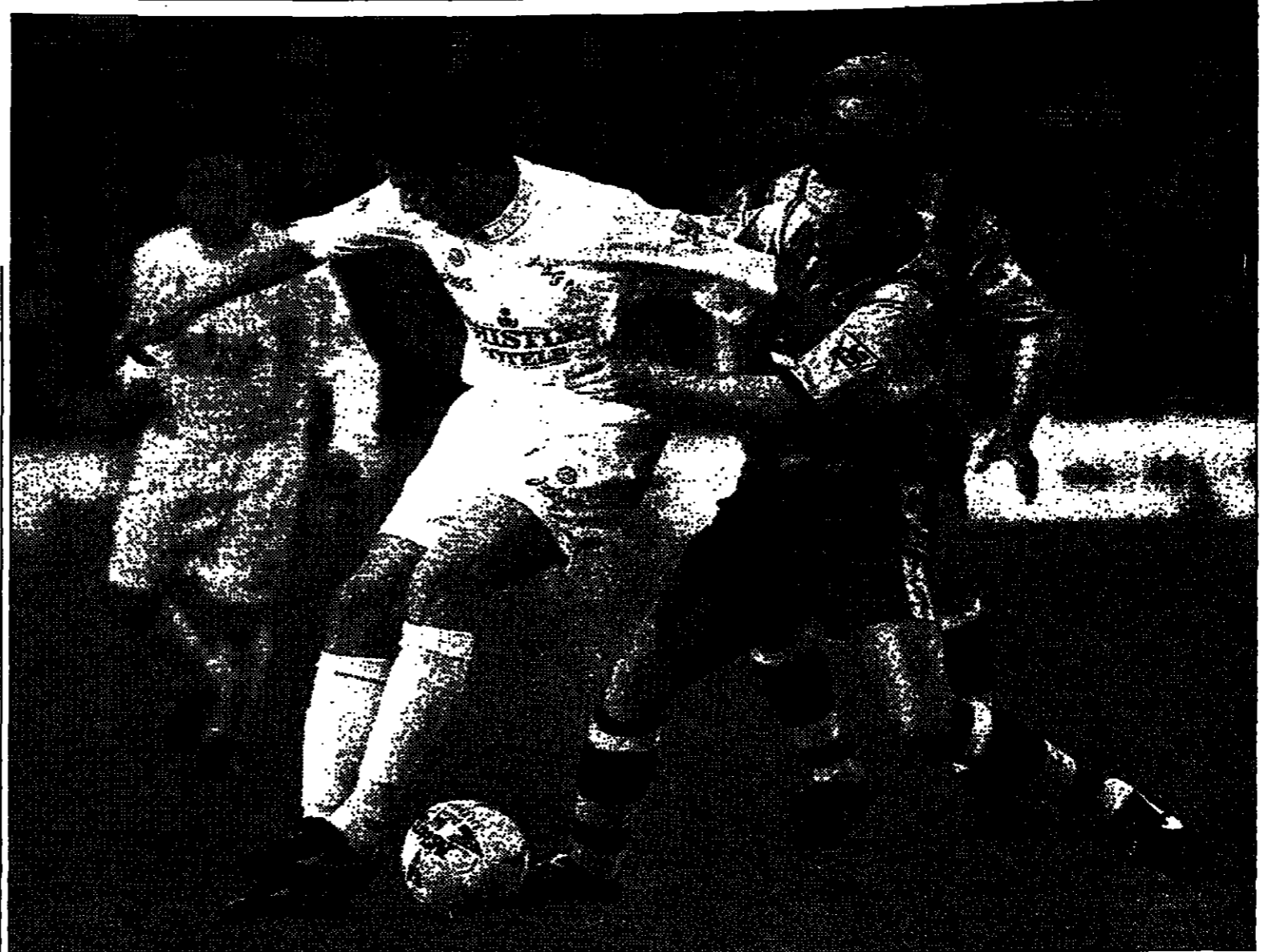
Changes were made at half-time, with Leeds sending on the fans' favourite Deane to play up front with Broolin...

Southampton were forced back, seemingly to await the inevitable which came in the 72nd minute when McAllister's corner was headed on by Wetherall...

Leeds almost added to Saints' embarrassment eight minutes from time when Gray's effort was cleared off the line by Benall.

Leeds: Lukic, Kelly, Wetherall, Roberts, Kewell, Deane, McAllister, Palmer, Broolin, Walford, Shipperley, Sheehy, Hetherington (East Loos).

Southampton: Bennett, Monk (Robinson), Widmerpool, Dodd, Wilson, Tisdale, Benoit, Venison, Charlton (Warren, 79), Le Tissier, Shipperley, Hetherington (East Loos).



Holding company... Andy Gray of Leeds fends off a challenge from Simon Charlton of Southampton at Eiland Road last night PHOTOGRAPH: BOSS PAPPI

Euro lift for Southgate

Neil Robinson

FOR once there was good news on the injury front for Terry Venables yesterday when Aston Villa's Gareth Southgate was told that he would not require surgery on the knee he injured during Sunday's FA Cup semi-final against Liverpool...

meant my recovery taking a lot longer. I have medial ligament damage, which is likely to take four to six weeks to heal. But the good news is that there is no damage to the cruciate ligament and no surgery required...

just have to accept it." Arsenal's Ian Wright and Manchester United's Steve Bruce were the only Premiership players to cross the 41 points barrier last season...

Feyenoord fearful of fans

Patrick Glenn

FEYENOORD, seeking the one European trophy to elude them, are concerned about the behaviour of their supporters before tonight's European Cup Winners' Cup semi-final first leg against Rapid Vienna...

weeks' time after trouble with Borussia Moenchengladbach fans in last month's quarter-final. Feyenoord have asked UEFA to lift the ban but the chairman Jozien van den Herik warned: "A single firecracker could cause damage for this club..."

the Austrian school. Austrians are more clever and frivolous than Germans and that you see in their play. Paris St Germain's Cup Winners' Cup hopes have been dealt a blow by the withdrawal of their Brazilian midfielder Rai from tonight's first leg away to Spain's Deportivo Coruna...

McCoist broaches possibility of parting from Rangers

Patrick Glenn

ALLY McCOIST, 33, the highest scorer in Rangers' history with 317 goals in all competitions during 13 years at Ibrox, may leave the club at the end of the season when his contract runs out...

After all, it looks as though it could be the last one I'll sign. In these circumstances there's a chance I'll leave. McCoist took some of the bitterness out of the build-up to Sunday's Scottish Cup semi-final with Celtic when he said his votes for the Scottish FFA's Player and Young Player of the Year awards would be cast for Parkhead...

Rugby League

Capitals' red-letter day

Paul Fitzpatrick

THERE is nothing down and out about either London or Paris, who meet at The Valley tonight. The reward for victory will be leadership of the Stanes Super League...

points as well. London would be a good place to start. For Terry Venables, a smart interception try at Charlery, is injured but Paris will choose from a strong 19-man squad. It includes Kava Utokamanu, a 6ft 5in Tongan prop weighing more than 18st, who arrived in Paris on Saturday after two years as a professional boxer in the United States...

Tigers, makes his full debut tomorrow against Wigan at Knowlsey Road in place of Simon Booth, who has a knee injury. Adam Fogarty comes into the pack for his first game since St Helens beat Warrington 80-0 in the Regal Trophy semi-final in January...

Rugby Union

Blackheath swoop for Stoop

TWO ambitious rugby union clubs are recruiting former rugby league players. Keighley's Namibian-born full-back Andre Stoop, once at Wigan, is joining League Two Blackheath while Treorchy have signed the Welsh rugby league international scrum-half Kevin Ellis...

Basketball

Towers profit from Marshall art

He liked them so much he bought the club. For the past two years they have played in various of Wembley's exhibition halls, for which they have to supply the court, sound system, seating and lighting as well as the entertainment. An unsung team of Marshall Arts staff spends eight hours setting up the venue on game day and at least six hours dismantling it overnight...

Robert Pryce reports on the man, the work and the buzz behind England's top team. FOR all its efforts over the past 20 years British basketball still lives in a kind of half-light. Teenagers who love the NBA disdain the British League. Sports editors show it no respect. The BBC ignores it...

Robert Pryce reports on the man, the work and the buzz behind England's top team. He liked them so much he bought the club. For the past two years they have played in various of Wembley's exhibition halls, for which they have to supply the court, sound system, seating and lighting as well as the entertainment...

Drawn by the vibe or perhaps by the team's success, an increasing number of people have been finding their way to Wembley. Just over a week ago, for a game against the Birmingham Bulls staged at the Wembley Arena, they broke the club's attendance record, when 4,472 turned up...

Sport in brief

Tennis

Mary Pierce returned from a month-long lay-off to beat Gigi Fernandez 6-7, 6-3, 6-1 yesterday in the first round of the Family Circle Cup in Hilton Head.

Results

Soccer

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP LEADS (D) Southampton (D) 2, 24/07. ENGLISH LEAGUE First Division: Stoke (1) 2, Wolverhampton (D) 0, 16/281. Second Division: Swindon (1) 2, 2/30. Bolton 3, Sheffield Utd 0, 2/30. Crystal Palace 2, Portsmouth 1, Arsenal 1, 2/30. Walsley 0, QPR 3, 2/30. Scunthorpe 2, Torquay 2, Plymouth 1, 2/30.

Baseball

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AMERICAN LEAGUE: Seattle 3, Chicago 2. NATIONAL LEAGUE: Cincinnati 4, Montreal 1. PITCHING LEAGUE: Pittsburgh 10, Toronto 5. PHILADELPHIA PHIGHTS: Houston 5, Los Angeles 4.

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Snowline

24hr skiing information direct from resorts in: Austria, France, Italy, Switzerland, Spain/Andorra & rest of Europe, N. America/Canada, Romania/Bulgaria. 0891 333 541. Weatherline 0891 333 401.

Hockey

Duncan Woods has forced his way into the Great Britain squad in training for the Olympics after a series of outstanding performances in his new midfield role for Southgate. He is the only newcomer in a revised squad of 25 for Britain's 23-match programme leading up to the Games.

Cricket

The prize-money for this season's Britannic Assurance County Championship has been raised to £279,000. The champions will win £55,000, together with £1,000 for each of the top nine counties which will receive place money, up from five last year.

Rugby Union

BRITISH OPEN (Plymouth) First round: 2. Newry (Scott) 61, 1. Plymouth (N) 51. 2. Garsington (US) 6-4, 6-0. A.

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Badminton

Wiranata suffers Ardy luck story

ARDY WIRANATA, who won the silver medal at the Barcelona Games in 1992, has failed to qualify for Atlanta. But a player from Mauritius ranked 179 places lower will be there. Wiranata, the former All England champion, is ranked No. 7 in the world but such is the strength of the Indonesian game that he is ranked only fourth in his own country...

Rowing

Cambridge show reserves at impressive rating

CAMBRIDGE took on their reserves yesterday and in their quiet way hinted at a reservoir of power waiting to be unleashed. In a three-minute piece on the Thames they settled at 36 strokes to the minute - a racy pace for the 4 1/2 miles they must race in Saturday's Boat Race - and took about a third of a length off the punchy Goldie crew during each minute...

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Handwritten text in a box: صكنا من الاجل



Cricket

Mike Selvey considers the prospect of Botham and the late nomination Gooch becoming Test selectors alongside the chairman Raymond Illingworth

# Beefy scare puts England in a stew

**D**ERBYSHIRE'S proposal that Ian Botham should become a national selector brings something of the B-movie ethic to the England team. Here they are, hog-tied and gagged after a modest tour of South Africa followed by a disastrous World Cup, when up gallops our hero on his white horse, at the speed of light and with a mighty "Hi-ho Silver" to save the day. Be it cricket, beer or life in general, he never did things by halves.

The same cannot be said of the more staid persona of Graham Gooch, whose county cap was thrown late into the ring by Essex yesterday. Gooch may have had his moments but mad cows is just about the only thing the controversial Beefy has failed to call selectors in the past, and this latest move — not actually a surprise given his frequent soapbox stance on Question of Sport — represents potsher turning president of the gamekeepers' association.

Botham was, he said on Tuesday, honoured to be considered, which is just as well since the role, which some himself included, may regard as merely an interim step to the job of overlord, is an honorary one. The rebel has found a cause and he is deadly serious. He is so serious, in fact, that he plans to end his tax exile on Alderney to return to Yorkshire.

Gooch yesterday appeared more critical of the players' lack of responsibility than a failure of management and thought that his views and experience might help. He was even happy, he said, to work alongside Botham as a selector. There is, of course, nothing wrong with Botham standing. Indeed, as one of the most charismatic sportsmen this country has produced, and certainly one of the most vigorously marketed, he would bring to the job a profile which, except in derogatory terms, has not existed before. It would be a populist



In the dark... Ian Botham, never short of radical views on English cricket, holds centre stage with David Graveney, left, and Bob Willis

appointment; although so was that of Raymond Illingworth. Furthermore, in terms of qualification, he might be said to have more background experience for knowing what makes an international cricketer than several rival candidates. He would be fun, too: a cannon so loose that the more staid members of the Test and County Cricket Board might fear a hole below the waterline before they could blink. Gags would be for cracking in the dressing-room, not for wearing in the mouth.

Botham's candidacy is a direct attempt to break the stronghold which Illingworth would like to re-establish after a chink appeared last year with the appointment of David Graveney instead of Brian Bolus. The chairman still has the opportunity to "star" his preferences from the candidates, and it would be against human nature if he did not want those who concur with his own views — Fred Titmus, Bolus (who became known as TSE Bolus: the man who likes to say "Yes") or John Edrich — to be appointed.

Graveney's reappointment would create rancour in the extreme after his recent unsuccessful attempt to unseat Illingworth as chairman. Botham, who has maintained consistently that selectors view the game with ice and a slice in the way, would for his part also send shockwaves through the system.

There is nothing wrong with healthy debate, of course, and an efficient selection process should rise above personal antipathy. But is a seismic upheaval of that magnitude as realistic as the proposers maintain? What, for example, does the job actually entail? Illingworth, rightly, maintains that it should involve a deal of travel around the shires, watching the counties, talking to captains, coaches, umpires, media, indeed anyone who can give a positive input to the process of weeding

out good from bad and contribute to selecting a successful England side. A working knowledge of international cricket is a useful qualification on the CV, but not paramount; and, though a credential as England's finest all-rounder is

by no means a passport to common sense, his larrikin image means there is a danger of Botham being given less than his due credit: he can talk a lot of sense.

Finally, a selector should have instinct and, in an unpaid post, the time and financial resources to do the job, something which limits the field severely. That Botham has the financial means is not in doubt but, unless there is a huge shift in the parameters, there are other more compelling reasons why this marriage could not work out, particularly his media work, which is incompatible with a selectorial position, and his ability to watch cricket at all relevant levels. Botham may not wish to sacrifice the first

and be unable to fulfil the second because of his hectic schedule. If Botham could satisfy these criteria he could be a welcome breath of air in a stagnant system. If not, then sadly, for all the bullishness, it has to be a non-starter.

example than tactical acumen. He also lacks an intimate knowledge of contemporary county cricketers. He retired three years ago, has always been too impatient to be a great watcher of the game and he has been even further isolated as a tax exile in the Channel Islands.

There is also a personal clash between him and Ray Illingworth, the chairman, a man from a different generation but one who still has a deeper understanding of the game.

Ian Botham would be an interesting choice but a bad one. Should he ever become available, a much better one would be the man once described as the pocket Botham, the Middlesex captain Mike Gatting.

There is, possibly, a role in English cricket for Botham, who remains immensely popular with modern players. Rabelaisian, irreverent, loyal and always positive, he could be very good news in the dressing-room as a sort of heavyweight amulet, a cheerleader with street cred. But as a Test selector he would certainly lack credibility. Beefy is not as bovine as he presents himself on TV and in print. He can talk seriously about cricket. But he has never been among the foremost thinkers of the game. He was a wonderfully natural, instinctive cricketer, particularly in his younger days, and as captain of Somerset and England he led more by heroic

study of the Pakistan-Australia Bribes Crisis by David Hopps, a tribute to Larwood and Wyatt, the last of the Bodylineers, both of whom died last year, Gideon Haigh's account of Queensland's first Sheffield Shield triumph ("the next day they would not have played a fitness test") and a review of cricket's connection with pub signs.

In the past few years there has been increasing acknowledgement that cricket is — or ought to be — an expansionist game and this, the largest ever Wisden at 1,440 pages, has its most extensive section yet on Cricket Round the World, with new entries from Vanuatu, Ascension Island and Western Samoa, where the game competes not necessarily with cigarets and whisky but certainly with "wild women". Disappointingly these turn out merely to be hurricanes, or it would be no contest.

The lightest side to Wisden is revealed in the Index of Unusual Occurrences (outfielders forced to stand in sea... play interrupted by unscheduled broadcast of church service... England win Test by an innings) and a Chronicle of the Year, including items from the media. One snippet from the Daily Express of June 16, reports that 30 cardboard cut-out Mike Atherton, produced for a pub promotion, had gone missing from a warehouse in Leeds.

Good news of one, though, occasionally spotted at mid-off during England's sad journey through the World Cup. Wisden Cricketers' Almanack 1996 edited by Matthew Engel (John Wisden and Co, £24.99 hardback and soft cover or £200 leather-bound limited edition).

## Don't quote me but...

"I would love to serve on the selection panel because the big challenge now is to find a team and to make it turn England into a world power again. I would have no problem working with [Botham]. Basically we stand for the same thing!" — Ian Botham yesterday.

"I suppose you've got to start at the top with Raymond Pontius Pilate Illingworth... the man who covers his backside... he's a winger, not a motivator!" — on being asked in 1995 what is wrong with English cricket.

"They bring him [a selector] out of a loft, take the dust sheets off him, give him a pink gin and sit him there. He can't go out of a 30-mile radius of London because he's usually too pissed to get back!" — what Botham (allegedly) said about selectors at a dinner in Manchester, June 30, 1986.

"I am knocking on the door for Ray Illingworth's job and intend to go on knocking, no matter how long it takes!" — Botham's autobiography, September 1994.

"Bloody medieval most of them!" — Botham gives his view on the people who run English cricket, April 24, 1995.

"I despair at the way the TCCB continue to appoint old men who are out of touch with the modern game. If Ily was going to be involved he should have been chairman of selectors 20 years ago!" — February 9, 1995.

"Sport is about having fun!" — 1995.

"[Botham's] greatest trick has been to convince people of his standing as an anti-establishment hero. Rarely has a cricketer been so protected by those in power!" — Peter Roebuck, December 10, 1995.

"If the terms are right and the money is right, I'll take it!" — Ian Botham on why he wants to coach Sri Lanka, December 18, 1994.

"I have a lot I could say about Ray Illingworth. If I had my way, I would take him to the Traitor's Gate and personally hang, draw and quarter him!" — December 18, 1994.

"Crickets costs me money now!" — on why he liked doing other things, July 25, 1993.

"The choice of Ray Illingworth as new chairman of selectors in 1994 almost defied belief... I would have given the job to my old sparring partner Bob Willis — Botham's autobiography.

"If you made him Prime Minister tomorrow, he'd pick the country up in 10 minutes!" — Bill Alley (former umpire).

"You never see them in India and Pakistan — they aren't stupid. We go out and get dysentery, cholera and typhoid and don't see a bird for three months!" — Botham continues his attack on selectors (allegedly).

"Ian Botham offered me pot in hotel, says Sue, 21" — Mail on Sunday headline, April 8, 1994.

### Oh yes

**I**AN BOTHAM'S recruitment as an England selector would be a glorious, stimulating and frightening risk. It would add a relish to the Test scene — but not any longer those juicy headlines that accompanied him since he first flexed his vocal muscles as a self-proclaimed lad on the Lord's groundstaff.

What people forget about Botham is that he is quintessentially a team man with an abiding affection, however he may at times have tried to obscure it, for the game of cricket. He has always believed that the side, its balance and composite skills, is more important than the individual.

He is dogmatic and opinionated, though maybe that is not bad thing as the Test XI is reshuffled and spirits are lifted. No one does the latter

better than Beefy. They did not talk of motivation as such when he was starting out at Taunton "but I could always give the buggers up". In the dressing-room he can be buoyant and boisterous, a gem.

The prospect of him sitting with his legs under the same table as Ray Illingworth is an uneasy one. Past exchanges, after all, have not fallen far short of litigation on occasions.

They are both entrenched in their prejudices; both have often spoken out of turn. In tandem they would strive for one-upmanship in matters of common sense as well as imagination. The partnership might actually work a productive treat.

Botham is an absorbing paradox, this Thatcher man and flag-unfurling patriot. Yet

he has a contempt for the intractable aspects of cricket's establishment. He passionately wants to be part of the England game once more, feeling too distanced in the commentary box.

His gut instinct in cricketing matters seldom lets him down. He would not be judged as a selector on social niceties but on his ability to spot, encourage and advocate the claims of talented players. He is worldly, in that refreshingly unacademic way, having acquired a working knowledge of West Indian and Australian culture and quirks.

Similarly he would have positive views about how to take on the Asians this summer. Audacious batsmanship, as Sri Lanka demonstrated, would be high on his agenda. David Foot

### Oh no

**T**HE choice of Ian Botham as an England selector would certainly put a number of the game's more patriotic noses out of joint, but that apart, the idea has little to commend it. There is more than a whiff here of crude populism. Botham is the sort of candidate Michael Howard would nominate — provided the Home Secretary had not already bashed him up in chokky.

Yesterday's Daily Mirror, sniffing referendum fever in the air, described "England's greatest player" as "the People's Choice to revive English cricket".

But the only people taken into account would be the cricketers, also vote for free beer, capital punishment and Gazza for King. Some issues need to be thought through.

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He was a wonderfully natural, instinctive cricketer, particularly in his younger days, and as captain of Somerset and England he led more by heroic

example than tactical acumen. He also lacks an intimate knowledge of contemporary county cricketers. He retired three years ago, has always been too impatient to be a great watcher of the game and he has been even further isolated as a tax exile in the Channel Islands.

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### Select seven go forward

**T**HE deadline for nominations for the two jobs as selectors closed at midnight with five other names registered alongside Botham and Gooch at Lord's.

As in 1994 Ray Illingworth's choices are Fred Titmus and Brian Bolus. The other contenders are David Graveney, John Edrich and Kim Barnett, whom Derbyshire nominated alongside Botham.

Dates for a ballot of the 18 first-class counties have not been set — partly because of Easter but also because Lord's will want confirmation that all the nominees are aware of the job description. A second ballot may follow. The England A team to play The Rest at Chelmsford on April 29-30 was chosen by Illingworth alone.

## Parish-pump politics down the Yellow Brick road

Mike Selvey welcomes Wisden's bumper new edition for its tradition and innovation

**W**EDNESDAY night was Wisden night. Every year, on the eve of the publication of the Yellow Brick, the editor hosts a good, old-fashioned, slap-up, black-tie do at the East India Club in St James's for staff and contributors, few notices and chums and not least, if they can make it, the year's Famous Five.

Mike Gatting was there and received an award, but not as a Cricketer to the Year. (Turn to page 288 in this year's edition, published today, and you will find that he had that honour bestowed in 1984.) Instead Gatting accepted a unique award on behalf of Middlesex, his county and the most successful

championship club of the last half-century: champion of champions.

Who says so? Well, the good book, of course. Statistics, as Wellington did not say, can be made to prove anything but a cricket, decade by decade, shows Middlesex to have won a higher percentage of their games than any other, their last-gasp win over Leicestershire at Exeter just leaving them above Surrey.

The same principle has been applied to Test cricket and it is West Indies who emerge pre-eminent. England, sadly, are third and, had the Cape Town defeat come at the end of last year instead of the start of this, would be one

place lower still. The editor, however, has written his notes — a traditional pulpit — with less thunder than usual, as if writing up the parish council minutes.

He was hamstrung, of course: England matters have been conducted with more dignity, he felt, but desperate though he surely was to have another tilt at the chairman of selectors (last year's scorched the pages), he found that, with a World Cup imminent, he might be calling for the head of a man who had just masterminded the trophy for England. The very idea. Nonetheless he criticises Raymond Illingworth's handling of Devon Malcolm and Mark Ramprakash as "woeful".

Other topics given consideration are MCC's continuing refusal to admit women, the difficulty in obtaining tickets for major matches, illegal bet-

ting and the case of an Indian Test player who may celebrate his 100th birthday this year but no one knows if he is still alive.

Trying to predict the Cricketers of the Year is a rainy day, end-of-season time-filler in the press box and to have come up with the full set this time would indicate supernatural powers. No tourists are included, since the worthy ones had already left their mark, but Anil Kumble and Aravinda de Silva are obvious. So too is Dominic Cork. Less compelling, though worthy, is Dermot Reeve, a major force behind Warwickshire's success. The fifth award, to Angus Fraser, is the first perhaps to be given, like a benefit, for services rendered in previous years: an omission rightly rectified. Ramprakash is unlucky.

Major articles include a study of the Pakistan-Australia Bribes Crisis by David Hopps, a tribute to Larwood and Wyatt, the last of the Bodylineers, both of whom died last year, Gideon Haigh's account of Queensland's first Sheffield Shield triumph ("the next day they would not have played a fitness test") and a review of cricket's connection with pub signs.

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## Srinath and Raju slam the brakes on Sri Lanka's whirlwind progress

**T**HE wheels finally came off the Sri Lankan juggernaut yesterday when the world champions lost to India by 12 runs in their second Singer Cup one-day game in Singapore.

The day after setting four one-day batting records against Pakistan their existing stroke-makers failed for the England A team to play The Rest at Chelmsford on April 29-30 was chosen by Illingworth alone.

Srinath took four for 35 to be named Man of the Match and Raju supported him with three for 26 as Sri Lanka were all out for 187 with 11 balls remaining. Srinath destroyed Sri Lanka's fiery top order and they plunged to 23 for four. His victims included Sanath Jayasuriya who could manage only seven after

hitting 134 against Pakistan the day before.

India had earlier been defeated 94 from the opener Navjot Sidhu, who hit only four boundaries in his 116-ball innings. The effort led to him being taken to hospital suffering from exhaustion and dehydration in the hot and humid conditions. He was later released and is expected to play against Pakistan tomorrow.

South Australia carried off the Sheffield Shield for the 13th time but only after their tailenders Peter McIntyre and Shane George had fended off 59 balls together in a tense final 40 minutes to secure the draw they needed against Western Australia in Adelaide. They finished on 208 for nine after being set 343 to win on a crumbling pitch

### Squash

#### Horner to meet Martin after slight Nitch

Richard Jago in Cardiff

**SUZANNE HORNER** reached the quarter-finals of the Leeskes British Open here yesterday and earned another crack at Michelle Martin, the world and British Open champion, two weeks after beating her.

Horner narrowly contained a dangerous fightback by the 11th seed Claire Nitch, who threatened to take their match the full distance after winning the third game to love and leading 7-6 in the fourth.

The British national champion was forced to change her tactics in the second half of

the match to cope with the South African No. 1's growing authority.

"I ran a lot in the first two games," said Horner. "Then she hit so many winners and drops I thought I will have to let the third go and try something different."

She began to move forward more often, to take the initiative whenever possible and set up attacking opportunities with early drives and volleys.

At 8-7 in the fourth, she produced a fine length drive to create an opportunity for a disguised backhand cross-court kill which regained her the serve. Nitch then gambled with a backhand drop that went down and Horner's next

serve struck a back-wall nick to take her to match point. She won it after a long rally which finished with Nitch conceding a penalty stroke with a mistimed backhand drive.

"I think I can do well against Michelle Martin again," said Horner. "I'm glad I have beaten her recently; she may be a bit nervous. Once she's confident she plays good shots. But of course in the British Open she really will be psyched up."

Martin herself showed impressive form as she conceded only seven points in taking 25 minutes to beat her compatriot, and the No. 13 seed, Robyn Cooper.

### Snooker

#### Now Davis falls to Johnston-Allen

Clive Everton in Plymouth

**MARK JOHNSTON-ALLEN'S** three wins over Stephen Hendry and others over Jimmy White and Ronnie O'Sullivan have given him a giant-killing reputation he enhanced by repouting the last 32 of the British Open here with a 6-2 win over Steve Davis.

"I wish I'd played Steve earlier in my career," said the world No. 45 from Bristol. "I learnt so much from watching him even though he missed a few today."

But, with only one quarter-final reached in the season's nine world-ranking

events, it is clear Davis is not the player he was.

Tom Knowles, now struggling for a place in the top 40, produced some of the form which made him No. 2 to Davis 15 years ago. He defeated James Wattana — another star who has started to struggle — 5-4 to reach the last 16.

Knowles made breaks of 89 and 77 to lead 2-0 and one of 119 to level at 3-3. Wattana's 115 put him 4-3 up but Knowles took the eighth to nil with runs of 49 and 46 and fluked the black to settle a dramatic decider after Wattana had five times attempted match ball on the colours.

### Sailing

#### Edwards's women go for Jules Verne record

Tracy Edwards

**TRACY EDWARDS**, who skippered the all-women crew of Maiden in the Whitbread Round the World Race, has purchased the giant catamaran ENZA, which broke the non-stop sailing record round the world, writes Bob Fisher.

Edwards will lead an all-women crew next January in an effort to lift the Jules Verne Trophy by beating the time established by Sir Robin Knox-Johnston and Sir Peter Blake in 1994.

"It's a natural progression from Maiden," said Edwards. "I needed a new challenge and the Jules Verne looked the most attractive." The 74 hours 23 days which Knox-

Johnston, Blake and their crew took is beatable. Knox-Johnston believed it would have been under 71 days if

they had not run into bad weather 2,000 miles from Cape Horn. The aim of the all-woman crew will be 73 days.

## Why is everyone talking Yakut?

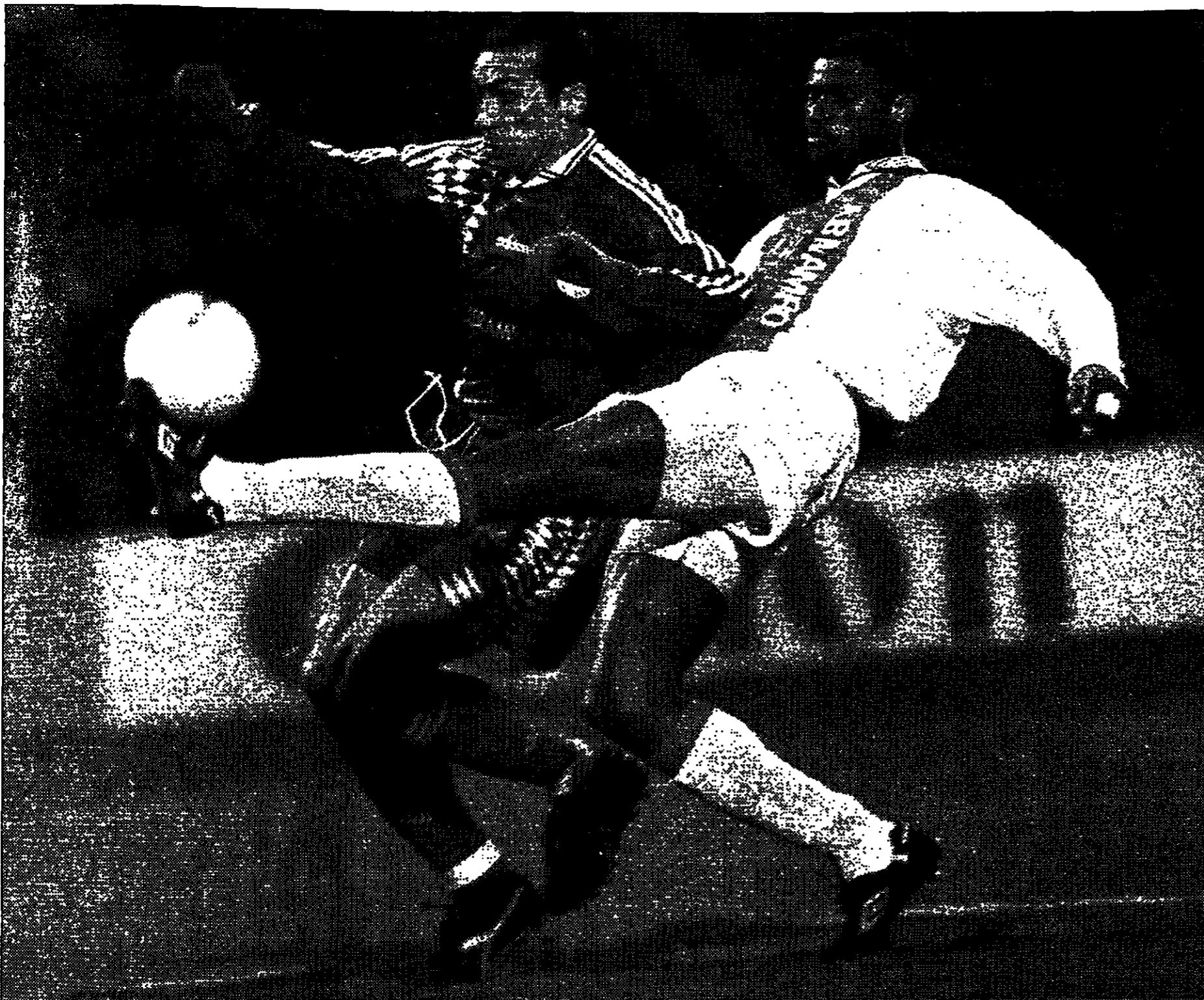


McCoy keeps his rivals at bay, page 13  
Brighter news for Southgate, page 14

Botham stirs up the debate, page 15  
The weighty words of Wisden, page 15

# SportsGuardian

## CHAMPIONS IN IMMINENT DANGER OF GOING OUT OF EUROPEAN CUP



First footing... Ajax's Winston Bogarde whips the ball away from the Panathinaikos winger Georgios Donis in Amsterdam last night

PHOTOGRAPH: JERRY LAMPEN

## Pitching in with death and snow



Jonathan Freedland

**B**ASEBALL fans are famous for nothing if not their passion for statistics. Otherwise, barely numerate Americans, who would crumble in the face of an equation, light up when asked to compute a batting average, calculate a quick earned-run average or crunch a strike-out rate.

So it was only natural that, when death visited the diamond this week, the fans responded the only way they know how: with data. Just seven pitches into the Cincinnati Reds' first game of the 1996 season, an umpire collapsed and died, face down in the dirt he loved, John McSherry was heavily overweight and suffered from a heart that beat out of control. He had an appointment with a specialist the very next day.

The 53,000-strong Cincinnati crowd fell into a respectful silence but it soon gave way to the distinct rattle of the record books. Archivists emerged to pronounce that McSherry was the first major league umpire to be fatally stricken during a game. Ray Chapman had died in 1920 after an on-field blow from Carl Mays, but he was a player. Within minutes another record was set: that day's game became the first to be postponed due to death.

It was not meant to be this way. Opening Day '96 was supposed to usher in a golden season, the first full one since 1993. The last two years had been ruined by strikes — with the dispute of 1995 the game's longest and bitterest. This time, baseball promised, we will get it right.

ready yielded some new characters, such as Liván Hernández, a defector from Cuba, and the modestly named Wonderful Terrific Monds III, an outfielder for the Atlanta Braves. (The name started with the player's great-grandfather, who had 12 daughters in a row. When he finally had a son, he declared: "That's wonderful! Terrific!").

Baseball has some lucrative new TV deals and statistics show that the recent game, for all its travails, is the richest in home runs. On Monday the Washington Post dedicated a 10-page supplement to that point.

Yet when Opening Day came, baseball could not deliver. As well as the sun setting on an umpire, there were cancellations and wash-outs. Snow wiped out the Cleveland Indians' opener against the New York Yankees; fans made a giant snowman instead. Rain stopped play in Philadelphia and Baltimore, where the Orioles were to start 1996 against Kansas City Royals.

**A**LL THIS matters because baseball is still America's national pastime. President Clinton was expected at Baltimore, where he was due to throw the ceremonial first pitch of the season. (He always delivers it underarm — delighting those who think he is a wobbly wimp). Tradition further dictates that the First Lady lead a sing-along of *Take Me Out To The Ball Game*.

Basketball may have the stars and the soft-drink endorsements but baseball is used to gauge the national pulse. "It's still un-American to wish baseball ill, even if the game deserves it," Thomas Boswell, the game's leading chronicler, wrote this week. That, of course, means there is political gain to be had from the game. The US Senate is currently debating two resolutions, each seeking to set aside a new National Baseball Day. The senators from New Jersey think it should be on June 19, to mark the day in 1846 when the game was invented... in New Jersey. The team from New York has a counter bill in play, suggesting September 23 be honoured as "the day in 1845 that the first baseball club was officially organised in New York City". So far, New Jersey leads New York 23 to 10 — in senators, not runs.

The politicians figure that, if people feel good about baseball, they will feel good about the country. So for Bill Clinton, death, rain and snow was not the right way for an election-year baseball season to begin. He knows that in politics, unlike baseball, it takes one strike and you are out.

## Ajax rocked by Warzycha

**A**JAX's prospects of retaining the European Cup looked gloomy last night after they were surprisingly beaten 1-0 by the Greek champions Panathinaikos in the semi-final first leg in Amsterdam.

After containing the holders for 87 minutes, the Greek champions broke swiftly from defence and Warzycha, left with only the keeper to beat, cleverly chipped the ball over Van der Sar.

It had been a flitful performance by Ajax who rarely looked capable of breaking down the Greek champions' massed defence.

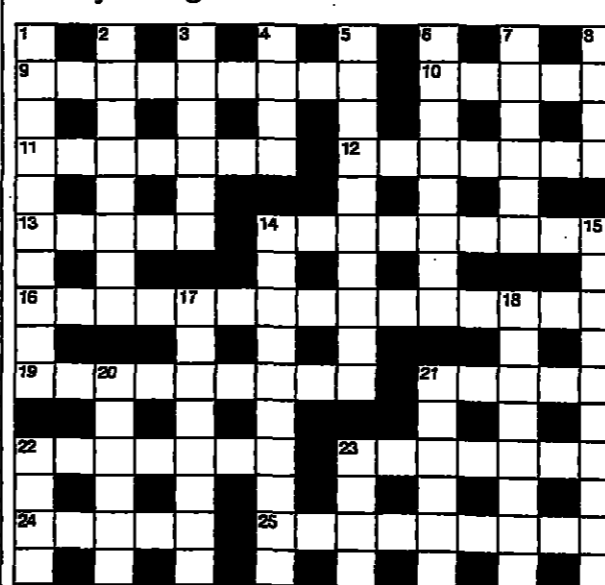
Finidi George went closest with nine minutes left but, having been set up by Frank de Boer and Kluijvert, his drive was pushed away by Wandzak at full stretch.

**N**O ONE said it would be easy. Polls show that the plague of 1995 has eaten deeply into baseball's following: in a year the game has lost 20 per cent of its popularity, with spectators defecting to the younger, faster attractions of basketball and NFL football. Advance ticket sales are up on the nadir of 1995 but short of the pre-strike days.

Still, there were some hopeful signs. The annual rite of spring training — when the teams move to Florida and Arizona for six weeks of sunshine and practice — had al-

## Guardian Crossword No 20,618

Set by Plodge

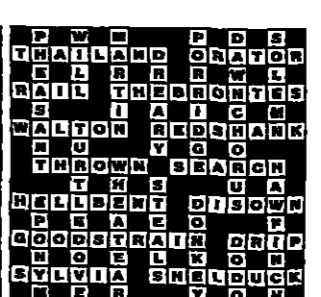


### Across

- 9 Does a French cow have to come down tail-less after a serious fall? (9)
- 10 see 19
- 11 The delicacy of a light-weight? (7)
- 12 It's novel to be first in line if back in Connecticut? (7)
- 13 Consent to an attic being shortened? (5)
- 14 Quiet men aren't always steadfast? (9)
- 16 A worthy worker for an American president in the south follows to bring in the goods? (9,6)
- 19, 10 Process more tin-foil for a solver in 21 across, 12 (9,5)
- 21 Site of war lost its last offence? (5)
- 22 First see Stalin's spirit return to 'orbible 21's across? (7)
- 23 see 23 down

### Down

- 1 River mammal in the same situation as myself enjoys a red herring in 21 across, 12 (5,5)
- 2 The animal is said to hold fast, at a clip (4,4)
- 3 see 22 down
- 4 9 lost naval result of 24, perhaps (4)
- 5 Can it make holes through a loudspeaker? (10)
- 6 Being too thin, I reached back and tucked in (8)
- 7 Hallelujah! Let the priest exult! (6)
- 8 Watched and heard part of an act (4)



### Crossword SOLUTION 20,618

- 14 Rehearsing for a publicity play, does one go to grass? (10)
- 15 Heard the sound of the bell while adjusting the pitch for a P.O.W. activity (10)
- 17 An example of electrical and mechanical engineers hesitating to return, only to come out once more (2-6)
- 18 Venomous flying fighter lost spirit after taking on new fuel (9)
- 20 Said to be direct but narrow (8)
- 21 Ride easily out of a trance (6)
- 22, 3 Avoid that back tree! It's sheltering the wardens and a character of 21 across, 12 (4,6)
- 23, 2 see Creator of 21 across, 12 follows Judges to split the Spanish line (4,7)

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OnLine

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